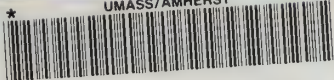


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Massachusetts Department of Correction
Review of Current Research - 1984

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Prepared by

Patricia Tobin
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Massachusetts Department of Correction

Michael V. Fair
Commissioner

April, 1985

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I. INTRODUCTION

During 1984, the Research Unit of the Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC) conducted several special research projects and produced a number of statistical reports describing the DOC prison population. This report presents a review of the research that stemmed from these projects and from annual updates. The abstracts summarize specific findings from each of the studies and statistical reports cited.

This report is divided into two sections reflecting the different areas of research conducted by the Research Unit during 1984. The first section includes abstracts of findings from special projects completed in 1984. The second section covers a series of statistical descriptions of the state prison population.

Studies summarized in the first section analyze selected prison populations or DOC sponsored programs. The first paper in this section deals with patterns of enrollment in vocational and academic education programs during incarceration in the Massachusetts Correctional Institution (MCI) at Norfolk. The second study examines the characteristics of offenders committed to county jails and houses of correction for driving while intoxicated, and assesses the impact of the 1982 drunk driving legislation on trends in commitments for this offense. The third paper in this section describes and analyzes recidivism research carried out by correctional agencies throughout the United States and Canada. The fourth study evaluates three contract drug treatment programs available to inmates at MCI-Norfolk. The final report in this first section is an analysis of the impact of proposed presumptive sentencing legislation on state and country correctional populations.

The second set of papers consists of eight statistical reports which the Research Unit produces annually. The reports present updated information on the status and characteristics of the state and county prison populations. The first in

the series of reports is a census of the prison population as of January 1, 1984. The next two reports deal with court commitments to correctional facilities during the previous year: one report presents information on commitments to the state prison system, and the other deals with commitments to county houses of correction. The three reports which follow the commitment reports document movement of the prison population during the previous year. One of the reports deals with the number and outcomes of furlough (temporary releases) granted during 1983; another describes the population released to the street in 1983; and the third documents internal movement and movement into and out of the prison system during that year. The last two reports of this set present recidivism rates for releases from DOC institutions during 1982. One paper reports recidivism rates for 1982 releases from maximum, medium and minimum security institutions, and the other details recidivism rates of 1982 releases from specific pre-release facilities. Information in each of the eight annual reports is institution-specific; that is, the data are reported by the institution where the population is resident, released from, or admitted to. Consequently, information on commitments, counts, and movements is available for the entire correctional system as well as individual institutions.

Copies of the full reports and studies may be obtained by writing to:

**Research Unit
Massachusetts Department of Correction
100 Cambridge Street, Room 2110
Boston, Massachusetts 02202**

II. EVALUATIVE AND DESCRIPTIVE STUDIES

Patterns of Enrollment in Adult Education Programs During Incarceration

#266

May 1984

Linda K. Holt

This study examines enrollment patterns in vocational and academic programs over a four month period at the Massachusetts Correctional Institution (MCI) at Norfolk. The purpose of this research was to compare offenders who participate in educational programs with those who do not and identify differences between participants who remain in programs and those who withdraw.

There were 1,196 inmates in the sample of whom 499 (42 percent) were participants in educational programs. At the end of the study period 149 (30 percent) of the 499 participants were still enrolled in courses, and 187 (37 percent) had withdrawn from courses. The most noteworthy differences were found between participants and non-participants in the adult education programs. There were no differences found between those offenders who tended to complete educational programs and those who withdrew.

The study identified six factors which distinguished participants from non-participants in the educational programs: minority status, age, type of sentence, criminal history, level of education, and recency of transfer to MCI-Norfolk. Minority offenders were more likely to participate than non-minority offenders. Moreover, minority offenders were more likely to enroll in academic courses while non-minority offenders were more likely to enroll in vocational courses. In general, participants were younger, more likely to be serving Concord sentences, and less likely to have an extensive criminal history than non-participants. Participation rates were lowest among recent transfers to the institution and among inmates who had been at MCI-Norfolk for long periods of time. Finally, offenders with less education and work experience were more likely to enroll in academic courses, while those with higher levels of schooling and training were more likely to enroll in vocational courses.

County Commitments for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol 1976 to 1983

#267

June 1984

Lawrence T. Williams

Legislation passed in September 1982 increased the penalties for operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquors. The act stipulated mandatory jail sentences for repeat offenders. This study examined commitments to county jails and houses of correction for driving while intoxicated (DWI) between 1976 and 1983. The purpose of the study was to gauge the impact of the new drunk driving law on county commitments and to develop a profile of convicted offenders.

Between 1976 and 1983 county commitments for driving under the influence increased dramatically from 46 commitments in 1976 to 2372 commitments in 1983. The greatest increase occurred between 1981 and 1982 when commitments for this offense rose 342 percent. A comparison of the first 16 months after passage of the new law with the preceding 16 months revealed an overall increase of 173 percent in DWI commitments. The increase in commitments for driving under the influence occurred across all counties although the percent change varied from one county to the next.

After passage of the new law counties not only experienced an increase in DWI commitments, but DWI offenders became an increasing percentage of all county commitments. During 1983 DWI commitments represented 25 percent of all county commitments whereas in 1980 they comprised only four percent.

Offenders committed for driving under the influence were found to be older, better educated, more likely to be married or previously married, and serve shorter sentences than other county commitments. Almost half of the DWI commitments (48 percent) received a sentence of less than one month between 1976 and 1983; during 1983 alone, 37 percent received a sentence of seven days.

A Survey of Recidivism Research in the United States and Canada

#268

July 1984

Dallas Miller

This study presents an overview of recidivism research conducted by correctional agencies and authorities throughout the United States and Canada. A survey was undertaken in order to explore the various ways recidivism research is conducted, to examine the conceptualization of recidivism, and to place the research program in Massachusetts within the context of these other efforts.

The report analyzes the research in terms of the official definition of "recidivism", the objective measures of recidivism, the source of information used by a research agency, and the population studied. Recidivism research generally focuses on repeat offenders and rates of reincarceration.

All of the 67 correctional agencies contacted responded to the survey. Twenty of the agencies conducted no recidivism research; fourteen collected data only on prior incarcerations or prior commitments to the agency; and thirty-three conducted follow-up research on returns after release from the agency. The report elaborates on the essential differences between research on returns and research on commitments and the implications of applying these two approaches. In addition, the report presents a detailed description of the research on returns.

Norfolk Drug Treatment Programs: A Process Evaluation

#276

September 1984

Ann Marie Rocheleau

This study presents the results of a process evaluation of the three drug treatment programs at MCI-Norfolk -- the SPAN, YTT and CASH programs. The results include a description of program participants, attendance levels, budget and personnel, the treatment mode, and program processes. Perception of the merits of the programs, their level of effectiveness, and their image within the prison are also examined. Finally, the report addresses the pros and cons of allowing outside, community-based drug treatment programs to provide services to inmates within the prison and discusses the likelihood of future research on the subject.

The main objective of each of the programs is to help inmates with drug-related problems and to provide support for them to become and remain drug-free. SPAN, however, places more emphasis on the re-entry services. All three programs utilize the same basic treatment mode -- the group therapy or self-help approach. The primary service to inmates is the weekly group session lasting one to two hours. SPAN and CASH provide a limited amount of individual counseling and SPAN offers re-entry services.

The three programs served only a small minority of inmates at Norfolk. Monthly attendance sheets revealed that SPAN served 128 different inmates, CASH served 15, and YTT served 30 during the 1983 calendar year. Together the 173 inmates represented seven percent of all inmates at Norfolk during 1983.

Profiles of program participants revealed that the programs attracted different types of inmates. Participants in CASH tended to be white, serving long sentences mostly for person-offenses. Most of the YTT participants were black inmates, who were somewhat older than other participants and had extensive drug and criminal histories. Participants in SPAN tended to be younger, have shorter sentences, and be within one year of their parole eligibility dates.

An Estimate of the Impact of the Uniform Sentencing and Correction Act on the Massachusetts Correctional System

May 1984

**Francis J. Carney
Linda K. Holt**

In March, 1984, Governor Michael S. Dukakis filed the Uniform Sentencing and Correction Act (H. 5537). A main purpose of the legislation was to promote greater uniformity in sentencing. The bill provided for recodification of offenses against the person and established a classification of crimes ranging from an A to F felony and an a and b misdemeanor. Each class of crimes was associated with a presumptive sentencing range.

The bill creates a system of negotiated programming and classification within the Department of Correction. This approach would facilitate an offender's participation in rehabilitation programs and would make more predictable his movement through the correctional system. Parole would be retained, but the authority of the Parole Board to release offenders sentenced for crimes against the person would be limited. Good conduct time would reduce a sentence by seven days for each month of time served with satisfactory behavior.

This report estimates the impact of the Governor's Uniform Sentencing bill on the prison populations in the Massachusetts Department of Correction and the county correctional system. The method used for estimating the impact of the presumptive sentencing legislation on the correctional population was to project the population over the next several years under existing sentencing statutes, and then to make another set of projections based on modified assumptions derived from the new provisions of the presumptive sentencing bill.

It was estimated that the peak population under presumptive sentencing would be 509 inmates higher than the peak population under existing sentencing statutes.

This impact analysis has become an ongoing enterprise in order to account for current population figures as these data become available and to account for revisions to the presumptive sentencing legislation as they are proposed.

III. ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORTS

**A Statistical Description of Residents of the
Massachusetts Correctional Institutions
on January 1, 1984**

#269

July 1984

Linda K. Holt

This report is a census of the population in state correctional facilities in the Department of Correction (DOC) on January 1, 1984. The report contains information on present offense, personal background, criminal history, and furlough participation of the residents. The statistics are presented in two sections: the first section describes the DOC population in facilities with no pre-release component and the second section describes the DOC population in facilities with a pre-release component.

There were 4,482 individuals incarcerated in the state correctional system on January 1, 1984. This represents a three percent increase over the population on January 1, 1983. Of these residents, 677 (15 percent) were in maximum security institutions, 2584 (58 percent) in medium security institutions, and 1221 (27 percent) in minimum security institutions or pre-release centers. The majority (69 percent) were serving Walpole (prison) sentences with a median minimum sentence of nine years; 26 percent were serving Concord (reformatory) sentences with a median maximum sentence of 10 years; and five percent were sentenced to Framingham. More of the Framingham residents were serving time for county sentences (48 percent) than for prison sentences (33 percent). There were 615 (14 percent) lifers in the 1984 census.

Residents were most likely to be serving sentences for offenses against the person (63 percent) or property offenses (16 percent). The most frequently committed offense was armed robbery (24 percent).

The population was predominately male (95 percent), white (66 percent), and single (63 percent). The median age at incarceration was 25 years old and the median education level was tenth grade. Twenty-five percent had a history of commitments to a juvenile authority and 55 percent had at least one prior incarceration as an adult.

A minority of the population (28 percent) participated in the furlough program during their current commitment. Of the furlough participants, only four percent (54 individuals) had furlough escapes during the current commitment.

**1983 Court Commitments to the Massachusetts
Department of Correction**

#270

August 1984

Linda K. Holt

This report is a statistical description of individuals committed by the courts to a term of incarceration in the Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC) during 1983. The report includes all new court commitments as well as incarcerations which began as new sentences during the year (forthwith and from-and-after sentences). If an individual was committed to DOC more than once during 1983, each commitment was counted as a separate event and, hence, a separate case. The report presents information on present offense, personal characteristics, and criminal history of admissions from the courts.

The 2,035 commitments in 1983 represent a two percent increase over the 2,003 commitments in 1982. There were 755 commitments to Walpole, 646 commitments to Concord, and 634 commitments to Framingham. Overall there was a four percent decline in male commitments to Walpole and Concord and a 15 percent increase in female commitments to Framingham between 1982 and 1983.

The median minimum sentence for Walpole commitments was six years; the median maximum sentence for Concord commitments was ten years; and the median sentence for Framingham commitments was less than one year. Sentence lengths were similar to those in 1982. Offenses against the person and sex offenses accounted for 50 percent of all commitments. Armed robbery was the single most common offense. The proportion of commitments for drug offenses decreased between 1982 and 1983.

The majority of commitments were white (69 percent); 66 percent were single; 44 percent came from the Boston SMSA; most had limited work experience concentrated in the areas of manual labor and services; and 28 percent had a self-reported history of drug use. The median education level was eleventh grade and median age at commitment was 25 years, the same as prior years. Fifty-four percent were serving their first adult incarceration.

Commitments to Massachusetts County Facilities During 1983

#265

May 1984

Lawrence T. Williams

This report presents a description of the population committed to Massachusetts county facilities (jails and houses of correction) during 1983. The report includes information on operating expenditures and average yearly population of the county correctional systems as well as commitment figures, offense and sentence information, and personal characteristics of the commitments. With the exception of Deer Island; and Charles Street Jail--the Suffolk County house of correction and jail, respectively--the statistics reported for a county combine the house of correction and jail figures. Due to the small number of offenders sentenced to jails, most of the county figures reflect house of correction commitments. All information in the paper is reported by the county facility receiving the commitments.

During 1983 9,617 individuals were committed to county facilities. This represents a 13 percent increase over the number of commitments in 1982. Nearly half of the commitments (47 percent) were sentenced to three institutions -- Billerica (19 percent), Worcester (16 percent), and Springfield (12 percent). Most of the commitments (92 percent) were sentenced from District Courts. The majority of individuals (88 percent) were committed for property and other non-person offenses. Commitments for operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated increased by 82 percent from 1982 to 1983. Sixty-five percent of those committed to county facilities were sentenced to serve three months or less, including commitments in lieu of fines.

The median age of those committed in 1983 was 25 years old, and the median grade completed in school was the eleventh grade. Almost all of the commitments were male, and the majority were single (68 percent).

**Population Movements in the Massachusetts
Department of Correction During 1983**

#271

September 1984

Patricia Tobin

The annual movement report is a compilation of all admissions and releases into and out of Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC) facilities during 1983. The report presents information on types of admissions and releases including: new court commitments, paroles, returns on parole violation, discharges, escapes, deaths, transfers to other correctional facilities both within the state and outside of the state, and trips to hospitals and courts. The statistics on various types of movement are summarized by specific institution or institutional group.

At the beginning of 1983 the population in custody of the Massachusetts Department of Correction was 4473; at the end of 1983 the population count had risen to 4605, an increase of 132 individuals or three percent during the year. There was a total of 23,844 moves during 1983; admissions were only slightly greater than the number of releases that year. The average number of moves per inmate was three. Inter-institutional transfers comprised the majority of admissions and releases during the year.

There was a total of 11,988 admission movements of all types into institutions during 1983. This represented a six percent increase over such movements in 1982. The breakdown by specific type of move indicates that increases occurred among institutional transfers (eight percent), individuals received on a from and after sentence (79 percent), and returns from escape (18 percent); decreases occurred among returns on parole violations (five percent). New court commitments remained about the same in 1983 and 1982.

There were 11,856 movements out of DOC institutions during 1983, an 11 percent increase from the previous year. Much of the increase in releases can be attributed to relatively more paroles to the street which increased by 47 percent in one year from 957 paroles in 1982 to 1,406 in 1983. The number of escapes decreased from 275 escapes in 1982 to 257 in 1983, a decrease of six percent. Other types of releases remained stable over the two year period.

A Statistical Description of Releases from the Massachusetts Correction Institutions During 1983

#273

November 1984

Ann Marie Rocheleau

This report presents a statistical description of the characteristics of individuals released to the street from facilities of the Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC) during 1983. The tables contain information on the nature of the commitment offense, personal background characteristics, criminal history, furlough program participation, and release characteristics for all individuals released to the street from Massachusetts correctional facilities. Only those individuals who were released to the street by authority of the Parole Board, by expiration of sentence or by discharge are included in the report. Individuals who were released more than once during 1983 are treated as multiple cases.

During 1983 there were 1,976 individuals released to the street from DOC facilities. This represents an increase of 37 percent over the number released in 1982. Walpole commitments represented 29 percent of all releases; Concord commitments represented 42 percent of all releases; and Framingham commitments represented 29 percent of all releases. Almost three-fourths of the releases were male and over one-fourth were female. Thirty-one percent of the releases were black and 68 percent were white. Overall, 52 percent of the releases had prior incarcerations in a state or county institution as an adult.

The report presents many of the statistics by the sex of the released offenders because males and females were found to differ on most release characteristics. These differences can be largely attributed to the type of sentences served. Eighty-six percent of the females released were serving county sentences, and 13 percent were serving state sentences. Almost all of the males released were serving state sentences. Among males, 62 percent were released from minimum security and pre-release centers, and 38 percent were released from higher security institutions. Among females, 12 percent were released from lower security, and 88 percent were released from secure institutions. The majority of men tended to be released by parole (84 percent), while the majority of women tended to be released by expiration of sentence or good conduct discharge (63 percent). A greater proportion of men (20 percent) than women (four percent) were released following a return on a parole violation.

1983 Yearly Statistical Report of the Furlough Program

#272

October 1984

Patricia Tobin

The furlough program has been in operation in the Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC) since November 6, 1972. This report presents a statistical description of the number, distribution, and outcomes of the furloughs granted in 1983, and a trend analysis of participation in the furlough program since its inception. The analysis is divided into two sections. The first section contains relevant furlough statistics for 1983. The second section presents a brief overview of the furlough program and provides comparisons of furlough characteristics over a 10 to 12 year period.

From January 1, 1983 to December 31, 1983 a total of 6,710 furloughs were granted. The actual number of individuals furloughed was 1,295. For every 1,000 furloughs granted, three ended in escape (a resident failing to return to a correctional facility within two hours of the appointed time of return). Twenty individuals--less than two percent of the population furloughed -- were declared on furlough escape in 1983.

A total of 88,523 furloughs have been granted between the inception of the program and the end of 1983. During that period 606 of those furloughs resulted in escapes, yielding an overall furlough escape rate of 0.7 percent or 7 escapes per 1,000 furloughs. Since the inception of the furlough program a gradual decline has occurred in the actual number of furloughs granted, the number of individuals furloughed, and the percentage of the released population participating in the furlough program prior to release. In addition, the escape rate had shown a parallel decline during the same period. The decline in furloughs and escape rates suggests that greater selectivity may have been exercised in the granting of furloughs thereby reducing the likelihood of escape. While 1983 showed a slight upturn in each of the furlough statistics, the difference between the 1982 and 1983 rates is not great enough to signal a reversal in furlough trends.

**Statistical Tables Describing the Background
Characteristics and Recidivism Rates for Releases
from Massachusetts Correctional Institutions During 1982**

#274

December 1984

Lawrence T. Williams

This report is the first of a two-part series on the recidivism rates of offenders released to the street from Massachusetts correctional institutions (MCI) in 1982. The second report in the series is report #275. For purposes of this report, all drug contract programs and pre-release facilities are collapsed into the category "pre-release." A description of released offenders and recidivism rates are available for: men released from MCI-Walpole, MCI-Concord, North Central Correctional Institution, MCI-Norfolk, Southeastern Correctional Center, Bay State Correctional Center, MCI-Plymouth and MCI-Warwick; and women released from MCI-Framingham.

A total of 1,221 offenders (918 males and 303 females) were released from all correctional facilities in 1982. Seventy-five percent were paroled and the remainder were discharged. Of those released, 467 men and 255 women were released from the secure institutions listed above.

Information in this report includes statistics on recidivism rates cross-tabulated by characteristics of release, present offense, personal background, criminal history, furlough participation, and release follow-up for the 1982 release population. A recidivist is defined as any offender who returns to a state or federal correctional institution or to a house of correction or jail for 30 days or more. Parole violators as well as offenders sentenced for new crimes are included in this definition of a recidivist. The recidivism rate (RR) represents the percentage of released offenders who have been reincarcerated within a year of release.

For 1982 releases the overall recidivism rate was 23 percent, slightly less than the rate for 1981 releases (24 percent). The rate varied by the institution of release, ranging from 41 percent from maximum security facilities to 17 percent from minimum security facilities.

**Statistical Tables Describing the Background
Characteristics and Recidivism Rates for
Releases from Massachusetts Pre-Release
Facilities During 1982**

#275

December 1984

Lawrence T. Williams

This report is the second of a two part series on the recidivism rates of offenders released to the street from the Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC) in 1982. The companion report is #274. For purposes of this report various state and contract pre-release facilities are identified and all higher security institutions are collapsed into the "non-pre-release" category. A description of released offenders and recidivism rates are available for offenders released from three contract drug rehabilitation programs (Meridan House, Boston VA Hospital and Third Nail) and twelve pre-release centers: 577 House, 699 House (Coolidge II), Temporary Housing Project, MCI-Shirley, Boston State Pre-Release, Coolidge House, Brooke House (men and women), South Middlesex Pre-Release, Park Drive Pre-Release, MCI-Lancaster (men and women), Hillside House and Norfolk Pre-Release.

A total of 1,221 offenders (918 males and 303 females) were released from all correctional facilities in 1982. Seventy-five percent were paroled and the remainder were discharged. Of those released, 451 men and 48 women were released from the pre-release centers listed above.

Information in this report includes statistics on recidivism rates cross tabulated by characteristics of release, present offense, personal background, criminal history, furlough participation, and release follow-up for the 1982 release population. A recidivist is defined as any offender who returns to a state or federal prison or to a house of correction or jail for 30 days or more. Parole violators as well as offenders sentenced for new crimes are included as recidivists under this definition. The recidivism rate (RR) represents the percentage of released offenders who have been reincarcerated within a year of release.

Among the 1982 releases the overall recidivism rate was 23 percent. For pre-release centers the overall rate was 17 percent, but the rate varied from 15 percent for state pre-release centers to 20 percent for contract pre-release facilities.

**Massachusetts Department of Correction
Review of Current Research - 1986**

Prepared by:

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Massachusetts Department of Correction

**Michael V. Fair
Commissioner**

March 1987

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INTRODUCTION

During 1986, the Research Division of the Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC) conducted several special research projects and produced a number of statistical reports describing the DOC inmate population. This report presents a review of the research that stemmed from these projects and from the annual statistical reports. The abstracts reproduced in this report summarize specific findings from each of the studies and statistical reports cited.

This report is divided into three major sections reflecting the different areas of research conducted by the Research Division in 1986. The first section covers a series of statistical descriptions of the state prison and county facility populations. The second section includes abstracts of findings from special evaluative and descriptive projects completed in 1986. The third section includes abstracts from research in progress in 1986.

The first section of this document consists of abstracts from reports which the Research Division produces annually. The reports in this section present updated information on the status and characteristics of the state and county prison population. The first in this series of reports is a statistical description of the 5,390 residents in DOC facilities as of January 1, 1986. The next report provides a statistical description of the 9,511 offenders committed by the courts to a Massachusetts county facility (jail or house of correction) during 1985 and

presents information on institution committed to, court committed from, month of commitment, offense, sentence length, sentence type, age, sex, race, marital status, education, place of birth and residence. The third report presents a statistical description of individuals committed by the court to a county correctional facility in Massachusetts for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol (O.U.I.) during 1985, trends in commitment for this offense, and some comparative information on the O.U.I. population and county offenders committed for other offenses. The fourth report contains a statistical description of the number, distribution and outcomes of furloughs for the year 1985 as well as a trend analysis of furloughs since the inception of the program in 1972.

The fifth report in this series presents a statistical description of the 2,331 offenders released to the street from a Massachusetts correctional facility during 1985 and presents some information on trends among releases over the last six years. The seventh statistical report is a description of the 2,409 individuals committed by the courts to a term of incarceration in the Massachusetts Department of Correction during 1985, including information on the nature of the present offense, personal background characteristics and criminal history of these individuals. The eighth report assesses population change and summarizes all movement of offenders in DOC custody during the calendar year of 1985 including information presented according to the institution of admission or release on : new court commitments, paroles, returns on parole violation, discharge, escapes, deaths, transfers to other correctional facilities both within and outside the state, and temporary releases to hospitals and courts. The ninth report presents a statistical description of offenders released to the street from Massachusetts correctional facilities during 1984 with corresponding recidivism rates. The tenth report presents a statistical description of offenders released to the street from

Massachusetts facilities with a pre-release component during 1984 with corresponding recidivism rates. The eleventh report is a statistical bulletin on escapes and returns from escape that occurred during 1985 and contains descriptive information on returns and escapes including: institution and security level from which the escape occurred, type of escape, current status of the escape, length of time at large, and characteristics of the individual escaping.

Studies summarized in the second section present findings from special evaluations and descriptions of DOC-sponsored programs and selected prison populations. The first report provides a profile of 165 inmates classified to and residing in the Departmental Segregation Unit (DSU) during 1983, including a description of the circumstances that resulted in their DSU classification and placement in segregation. The second study synthesizes descriptive trend data on recidivism for the years 1971 through 1983 and presents a summary statistical overview of the findings of DOC research on the effects of community reintegration on rates of recidivism.

The third section of the document covers research projects which were in progress in 1986 and scheduled for completion in 1987. The first of these is an evaluation of the MCI-Lancaster Visiting Cottage Program in which children can visit overnight with their incarcerated mothers in specially designated trailers. A second study of DSU inmates as well as an evaluation of DSU II at MCI-Norfolk will examine protective custody issues including the number of reported enemies, prior protective custody placements and attitudes/fears of inmates regarding protective custody and their resultant placement into segregation. A fourth study, an evaluation of MCI-Cedar Junction Substance Abuse Program Unit, will examine pre- and post-program institutional drug use of program completers, non-completers, non-admitted applicants, and a non-applicant comparison group. The

fifth project in progress is an evaluation of the Longwood Treatment Center, which examines the implementation of a correctional institution that provides alcohol treatment services to incarcerated repeat drunk driving offenders.

In 1986, the Research Division began five new studies. The first is a Systems Analysis and Outcome Evaluation of the Massachusetts Correctional Industries Program. The second project is a Survey of Research and Evaluation Priorities of DOC Central Office Administrators and Institutional Administrators. Third, the Division has undertaken an evaluation of the Classification and Program Agreements System at MCI-Concord. A fourth project is an outcome evaluation of the Western Massachusetts Correctional Alcohol Center. Fifth, the Research Division began an evaluation of the Norfolk Fellowship Program which brings inmates and members of the local community together to discuss a wide range of issues in a group setting.

Two statistical studies were in progress in 1986. The first is a statistical description of disciplinary reports issued in 1984 including information on: reporting institution, offense, finding, sanction and characteristics of the offenders incurring the reports. The second study is an examination of client movement between Massachusetts mental health and Massachusetts correctional institutions among a population of incarcerated adult women from 1970 to 1980.

Information in each of the annual reports is institution-specific; that is, the data are reported by the institution where the population is a resident, released from, or admitted to. Consequently, information on commitments, counts, and movements is available for the entire correctional system as well as individual institutions.

In addition to the annual report, the Research Division also produces quarterly reports on the status of prison overcrowding, and monthly statistical

reports on admissions to and releases from the Department of Correction which includes information on participation in some inmate programs (furloughs, state hospital, work release).

Copies of the full reports and studies may be obtained by writing to:

**Research Division - 21st Floor
Massachusetts Department of Correction
State Office Building
100 Cambridge Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02202**

I. ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORTS

A Statistical Description Of Residents Of The Massachusetts Correctional Institutions On January 1, 1986

294

April 1986

Linda K. Holt

This report is a statistical description of the 5,390 residents in Department of Correction (DOC) facilities on January 1, 1986. The report does not include information of certain categories of offenders: individuals at Bridgewater State Hospital Addiction Center or Treatment Center (N=1,083); individuals who were sentenced to the DOC and were confined in Houses of Correction on January 1, 1986 awaiting transfer to DOC facilities (N=2); DOC offenders who were in the custody of a federal prison, another state or a House of Correction on January 1, 1986 (N=183); individuals in the custody of the DOC on a detention status (such as women in the ATU (N=63), Charles Street inmates housed at MCI-Concord, and inmates on 15 days Parole Board detainers); or individuals received as civil commitments. This report does contain information on House of Correction, federal and out-of-state inmates in the custody of the Department of January 1, 1986. This report also contains information on inmates at Longwood Treatment Center, a specialized facility for offenders committed for operating under the influence of alcohol (OUI).

This point in time profile contains information on present offense, personal background, criminal history and furlough program participation. This report contains information on two maximum security facilities, MCI-Cedar Junction (formerly MCI-Walpole), and Lemuel Shattuck (a hospital facility); five medium security facilities, MCI-Concord, MCI-Framingham, MCI-Norfolk, NCCI, and SECC; three minimum security facilities, Bay State C.C., Medfield Prison Project, and NCC; six minimim/pre-release facilities, MCI-Plymouth, MCI-Warwick, MCI-Shirley, MCI-Lancaster, Longwood Treatment Center and Hodder House (part of MCI-Framingham); four state pre-release facilities, Park Drive PRC, Norfolk PRC, South Middlesex PRC, and Boston State PRC; and eight contract pre-release facilities, McGrath House (formerly 577 House), Brooke House, Coolidge House, Coolidge II, Temporary Housing Program, Charlotte House, Hillside PRC and Meridian House. The tables were derived from the Correctional and Parole Management Information System (CAPMIS) and were produced by the Research Division on the Regent's Computer Network (RCN).

**Court Commitments to
Massachusetts County Facilities
During 1985**

295

May 1986

Linda K. Holt

This report provides a statistical description of the 9,511 offenders committed by the courts to Massachusetts county facilities (jail or house of correction) during 1985. The report presents information on institution committed to, court committed from, month of commitment, offense, sentence length, sentence type, age, sex, race, marital status, education, place of birth and residence.

Some highlights of the statistics presented in this report are:

- In 1985 there were 9,511 commitments to county facilities. This represents an increase of 114 (one percent) over the number of commitments in 1984.
- The most common offense for which offenders were committed were Operating Under the Influence (O.U.I.) (22 percent), motor vehicle violations (13 percent), and burglary (10 percent).
- The median sentence length was two months. Eleven percent were committed in lieu of payment of a fine. Four percent were serving week-end sentences.
- The median age of offenders committed to county facilities was 26 years.
- Eighty percent of the offenders were white, 14 percent were black and 6 percent were hispanic or other races.
- The median educational level was eleventh grade.
- Seventy percent of the offenders were single, 18 percent were married and 12 percent were separated, divorced or widowed.
- Seventy-one percent were born in Massachusetts, 19 percent were born in other states, 6 percent were born in U.S. territories and 4 percent were foreign-born.

**1985 Court Commitments to
Massachusetts County Facilities
for Operating Under the Influence
of Alcohol**

296

May 1986

Linda K. Holt

This report presents a statistical description of individuals committed by the courts to a county correctional facility in Massachusetts for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol (O.U.I.) during 1985. This report also presents some information on trends in commitments for this offense and some comparative information on the O.U.I. population and county offenders committed for other offenses. Some highlights of the information contained in this report are:

- In 1985 there were 2,118 offenders committed to county facilities for O.U.I. This is an increase of 112 (6 percent) over the 2,006 commitments for O.U.I. in 1984.
- The median sentence length for O.U.I. commitments was 2 months. This is twice the median sentence length of 1984 commitments (1 month). This is more than six times the median sentence length of those committed in 1983 (10 days).
- The 2,118 commitments for O.U.I. represent 22 percent of all offenders committed to the counties in 1985. This is similar to 1984 when 21 percent of all commitments were for O.U.I.
- Commitments for O.U.I. varied by county. Commitments ranged from 9 in Dukes county to 517 in Middlesex county. Commitments ranged from 9 percent of all commitments in Suffolk county to 34 percent of all commitments in Norfolk county.
- The typical offender committed for O.U.I. in 1985 was white, 28 years old, male, single and a high school graduate.

1985 Annual Statistical Report of the Furlough Program

298

July 1986

Patricia Tobin, Ph.D.

The furlough program has been in operation in the Massachusetts Department of Correction since November 6, 1972. A total of 106,378 furloughs have been granted between the inception of the program and December 31, 1985. During that period, 634 of those furloughs resulted in escapes (a resident failing to return to his/her correctional facility within two hours and the appointed time of return), thus yielding an overall furlough escape rate of 0.6 percent or 6 escapes per 1,000 furloughs granted. The present report contains a statistical description of the number, distribution and outcomes of furloughs for the year 1985 as well as a trend analysis of furloughs since the inception of the program in 1972.

From January 1, 1985 to December 31, 1985, a total of 9,492 furloughs were granted. The number of individuals receiving furloughs in 1985 was 1,621. For every 1,000 furloughs granted in 1985 two ended in escape. Eighteen individuals -- about one percent of the inmates furloughed -- were declared on furlough escape during that period.

From the inception of the furlough program through 1982 there was a gradual decline in the number of furloughs granted, the number of offenders furloughed, and the percentage of the released population participating in the furlough program prior to release. The escape rate showed a paralld decline during this period. However, starting in 1983 and extending into 1985, the number of furloughs granted and the number of individuals furloughed increased, while the trends in the percentage of the released population furloughed and the escape rate continued to decline. The decline in the proportion participating in the furlough program prior to release was attributed to the increasing number of women and other offenders with short sentences in the released population. The decline in escapes was related to a relatively recent change in the type of furlough granted at secure institutions, (i.e., in recent years furloughs from secure institutions were less likely to be unescorted than in the past, thereby reducing the opportunity for escape).

**A Statistical Description of Releases From
Massachusetts Correctional Institutions
During 1985**

299

July 1986

Linda K. Holt

This report presents a statistical description of the 2,331 offenders released to the street from Massachusetts correctional institutions during 1985. This report also presents some information on trends among releases over the last six years. Some highlights of the information included in this report are:

- The 2,331 releases in 1985 represent an increase of 206 (10 percent) over 1984 releases and an increase of 1,316 (130 percent) over 1980 releases.
- Sixty-percent were released by parole, 24 percent were discharged and 15 percent were released by expiration of sentence.
- Fifty-nine percent were released from secure facilities and 41 percent were released from lower security facilities. Many of those released from secure facilities were females or parole violators.
- The average time served was 58.5 months for individuals serving Cedar Junction sentences, 23.0 months for individuals serving Concord sentences, and 4.4 months for individuals serving Framingham sentences.

1985 Court Commitments to the
Massachusetts Department of Correction

300

July 1986

Dallas H. Miller

This report is a statistical description of the 2,409 individuals committed by the courts to a term of incarceration in the Massachusetts Department of Correction during the year 1985. The tables in this report contain information on the nature of present offense, personal background characteristics and criminal history of these individuals. Some highlights of the statistics presented in this report are:

- There was an 9 percent increase in the number of commitments during the year, from 2,202 in 1984 to 2,409 in 1985. This is a similar increase to that which occurred in 1984 (8 percent) and continues a period of growth in court commitments. The 2,409 commitments in 1985 represents the highest level of commitments in DOC history.
- There were 993 commitments to Cedar Junction (20 percent higher than 1984), 617 commitments to Concord (a slight drop from 1984) and 799 commitments to Framingham (9 percent higher than 1984).
- Males are committed to Cedar Junction or Concord while females are committed to Framingham. Overall, there was a 10 percent increase in male commitments and a 9 percent increase in female commitments from 1984 to 1985.
- The median minimum sentence for Cedar Junction commitments was five years; the median maximum sentence for Concord commitments was ten years; and the median maximum sentence for Framingham commitments was less than 1 year. Sentence lengths for new court commitments were similar in 1984 and 1985 for Concord and Framingham commitments, but the median for Cedar Junction commitments declined from six to five years.
- Violent offenses (person and sex) accounted for 62 percent of all male commitments and 11 percent of all female commitments. Non-violent offenses (property, drug and "other") represented 89 percent of all female commitments and 38 percent of all male commitments. Armed robbery was the single most common offense. The largest increases in commitments from 1984 to 1985 were in categories of drug offenses (98 more in 1985 than 1984) and sex offenses (84 more in 1985 than 1984).
- The median age at commitment was 26.8 years, slightly higher than in 1984 (26.3 years).
- Sixty-one percent of the commitment population were whites; 65 percent were single; 11 percent had been in the military; 48 percent came from the Boston SMSA; most had limited work experience concentrated in the areas of manual labor and services; the median educational level was

eleventh grade; and 23 percent has a self-reported history of drug use.

- Fifty-six percent were serving their first adult incarceration. The median age at first court appearance was seventeen.

**Population Movements In The Massachusetts
Department of Correction During 1985**

301

August 1986

Lisa Lorant

The Department of Correction routinely monitors population movement in the state correctional system. This report assesses population change and summarizes all movement of offenders in DOC custody during the calendar year of 1985. The information is presented according to the institution of admission or release and includes the following: new court commitments, paroles, returns on parole violation, discharges, escapes, deaths, transfers to other correctional facilities both within the state and outside the state, and temporary releases to hospitals and courts.

During 1985 there were 14,590 admissions of all types and 14,143 releases. Overall, the state prison population increased by nine percent between 1984 and 1985.

Some of the largest increases in admissions occurred among DOC inmates returned from houses of correction (85%), county inmates transferred to the DOC from houses of correction (34%), returned on parole violations (28%), and new court commitments (9%). Among releases, there was a 49% increase during 1985 in inmates transferred to houses of correction, and a 46% increase in DOC inmates discharged to the street.

Statistical Tables Describing The Background Characteristics And
Recidivism Rates For Releases From Massachusetts
Correctional Institutions
During 1984

302

December 1986

Lisa Lorant

This report is the first of two reports on recidivism rates of offenders released from Department of Correction facilities during 1984. Some highlights from this report are:

- The recidivism rate in 1984 was 25%. This is higher than the rates for 1983 (21%) and 1982 (23%).
- The increase in recidivism rates occurred at the same time that the number of releases increased, from 1,221 in 1982; to 1,726 in 1983; and 1,888 in 1984.
- The recidivism rate varied by security level of the institution from which the offender was released: 37% for maximum, 31% for medium, 20% for minimum, 19% for minimum/pre-release, 16% for state pre-release and 14% for contract pre-release.
- The recidivism rate for males was 24%, an increase from the 1983 figure of 20% and the rate for females was 29% an increase from last year's figure of 26%.
- Among males, the recidivism rate was 24% for those serving a Walpole sentence (compared to 18% for 1983) and 24% for those serving a Concord sentence (compared to 21% for 1983).
- The recidivism rate for offenders with no furloughs prior to release was 31% and the recidivism rate for individuals with furloughs prior to release was 12%.
- The increase in the recidivism rate from 1983 to 1984 was greatest for releases from maximum security (28% vs. 37%) and medium security (27% vs. 31%).
- Recidivists were returned for a variety of reasons: 21% for technical parole violations, 47% for a parole violation involving a new arrest, and 32% for re-incarceration on a new offense.
- Offenders who were paroled had higher recidivism rates (27%) than those who were discharged (18%).

Appendix to Report 302:

Statistical Tables Describing The Background Characteristics And Recidivism Rates For Releases From Massachusetts Pre-Release Facilities During 1984

303

December 1986

Lisa Lorant

This report presents a statistical description of offenders released to the street from Massachusetts facilities with a pre-release component during 1984 with corresponding recidivism rates. The report presents statistics for state pre-release facilities (MCI-Shirley, MCI-Lancaster, Boston State PRC, South Middlesex PRC, Park Drive PRC, and Norfolk PRC), three drug rehabilitation programs (Meridian House, Spectrum House and Boston VA Hospital), and seven contract pre-release facilities (Brooke House, Coolidge House, Coolidge II, Temporary Housing Program, McGrath House, Charlotte House and Hillside). For purposes of this report, the Massachusetts Correctional Institutions are collapsed into the "non-pre-release" category. Statistics for the maximum security facility (MCI-Cedar Junction), medium security facilities (MCI-Concord, MCI-Norfolk, MCI-Framingham, SECC and NCCI), and minimum security facilities (MCI-Plymouth, MCI-Warwick, Bay State C.C. and N.C.C) are presented in another report (# 302), along with a description of the recidivism data. Four institutions actually combine minimum and pre-release. In order to be consistent with past recidivism reports, MCI-Plymouth and MCI-Warwick are considered minimum, and MCI-Shirley and MCI-Lancaster are considered pre-release. A total of 1,888 offenders (1,445 males and 443 females) were released from the correctional facilities listed above. The follow-up period is one year from the date of the offender's release to the community. A recidivist is defined as any offender who returns to a state or federal correctional institution, or to a house of correction or jail during the follow-up period for 30 days or more. This includes parole violators as well as those offenders sentenced for new crimes.

Information contained in this report includes recidivism rates with regard to release variables, nature of present offense, personal background, criminal history, furlough participation, and release follow-up variables. Each table contains two types of information: 1) statistical data describing characteristics of offenders released from each institution during 1984; and 2) the rates of recidivism cross-tabulated with each of the categories of the statistical data for these offenders. This report consists solely of statistical tables.

Statistical Bulletin on Escapes For 1985:
A Profile of Escapes and Returns From
Escape During 1985 and Individuals on
Escape Status on December 31, 1985

304

December 1986

Linda K. Holt

This statistical bulletin presents information on escapes and returns from escape that occurred during 1985. The bulletin contains a description of the escapes and returns including: institution and security level from which the escape occurred, type of escape, current status of the escape, length of time at large, and characteristics of the individuals escaping. Some highlights of the information contained in this report are:

- During 1985 there were 284 escapes and 279 returns from escapes, an increase of 50 escapes and 3 returns from the previous year.
- The escape rate in 1985 was 3.4. The escape rate is lower than nine of the preceeding ten years.
- Almost all escapes occur from lower security facilities and are walk-aways from those facilities or failures to return from release programs such as furloughs or work release. In 1985 there were only 6 escapes from medium security and most secure facilities had no escapes at all.
- Most escapes occur in the summer months. In 1985, 32 percent of all escapes occurred in June, July or August.
- Most escapes are resolved quickly. Eighty-four percent of all 1985 escapees were returned to the DOC or known to be in the custody of another correctional agency at the end of the year. Sixty-two percent of those returned were returned within one week of escape.
- In contrast with other offenders in lower security institutions, escapees are younger and are more likely to be incarcerated for property offenses and to be serving Concord sentences.
- At the end of the year there were 94 individuals at large from the DOC.

II. EVALUATIVE AND DESCRIPTIVE STUDIES

Inmates In The Departmental Segregation Unit

293

March 1986

Ann Marie Rocheleau

This report is the first in a series of three that focuses on inmates classified to the Departmental Segregation Unit (DSU). This report deals specifically with the 165 inmates classified to and residing in DSU during 1983. The main purpose of this report is to outline the circumstances that resulted in their DSU classification and describe their placement in segregation. The report also provides a profile of these DSU inmates and describes where they were in terms of their incarceration in order to put their disciplinary problems into perspective.

Almost all of the inmates in this study encountered their disciplinary problems at MCI-Cedar Junction. The majority were referred for DSU classification as a result of being found guilty of a very serious disciplinary report. The two most frequent single offenses for which inmates ended up being classified DSU were staff assaults and participation in a riot. When broken into four categories, the frequency of DSU offenses were as follows: offenses against other inmates (35%), offenses against staff (30%), participation in a riot (23%) and all other offenses (12%).

Inmates with prior disciplinary reports (D-reports) for assault on staff were highly likely to have their DSU offense be an assault on staff. Similarly inmates with prior riot D-reports were most likely classified DSU for the same offense. This relationship did not hold true though for inmates with prior inmate assaults. There was also a statistical relationship between last housing unit and type of DSU offense. This is of particular interest since inmates are assigned to housing units based on their Quay scores.

One-hundred-ten of the 165 DSU inmates studied in this research had been released from DSU status by the end of the data collection. The average time spent in segregation was 3.6 months. These inmates were most often released to Cedar Junction's Essex units, DSU II at Norfolk or one of the other Cedar Junction units. Twelve inmates were released from DSU status to the street -- one by parole and one by court. Of the 55 inmates still classified DSU by the end of this study, twenty-one were relatively recent arrivals. The remaining inmates were either serving long DSU sentences for serious offenses or were being retained in DSU as a result of disruption and discipline problems in segregation.

**The Effect of Community Reintegration on Rates
of Recidivism: A Statistical Overview of
Data for the Years 1971 Through 1983**

297

March 1986

Daniel P. LeClair

This report attempts to draw together data generated from the recidivism studies of the past 13 years and to present a summary statistical overview of the findings. The annual statistical monitoring of recidivism data since the year 1971 has led to the detection of a number of significant trends occurring within the Massachusetts correctional system. Dominant among these trends was the occurrence of a systematic reduction in the recidivism rates from 1971 through to 1978. For example, in the year 1971, the recidivism rate for the combined population of state prison releases was 25%; in 1973 it had dropped to 19%; and in 1976 it had dropped to 16%. By 1977, the recidivism rate was 15%. Later data, however, revealed that a reversal had occurred in this historical trend. The 1979 and 1980 releasee populations represented the first statistically significant increase in recidivism rates in a nine year period. However, 1981 through 1983 data have shown a modest but consistent drop in recidivism rates.

A second major trend concerned the home furlough program in the Massachusetts correctional system, a program begun in and expanded subsequent to the year 1971. Recidivism studies demonstrated that inmate participation in the furlough program may be an important variable in accounting for the systematic reduction in recidivism rates occurring in Massachusetts. The data revealed that those individuals who had experienced a furlough prior to release from prison had significantly lower rates of recidivism than did individuals who had not experienced a furlough prior to release. When selection factors were controlled, the relationship remained positive. This trend continued in a consistent pattern for the eleven successive years for which data were available.

Recidivism studies have also revealed that participation in pre-release programs prior to community release leads to reduced rates of recidivism. Again, when selection factors were controlled the relationship remained constant.

A final documented trend that emerged from the recidivism studies focused on the process of graduated movement among institutions in descending level of security and size. Analyses revealed that individuals released to the street directly from medium or minimum security institutions (including pre-release centers and halfway houses) had significantly lower rates of recidivism than did individuals released directly from a maximum security institution. Again, this relationship held even when selection factors were controlled.

When follow-up periods were extended from one to two and then to five years, the above findings with respect to furloughs, pre-release centers, and security level of releasing institution remained constant.

The major findings of the research were collectively interpreted as tentative evidence of a positive effect of the reintegrative community-based correctional programming. That is, correctional programs operating in the Massachusetts system which are geared to maintain, to establish, or to reestablish general societal links such as family, economic, political, and social roles may be associated with a subsequent reduction in recidivism. Also associated with the reduction in recidivism is the graduated societal reintroduction of the offender. This is accomplished through a series of movements among institutions in descending levels of security and size along with the awarding of increased increments of community contacts through participation in furloughs, education release, and work release programs.

The above conclusions hold through the documented trend of increased recidivism and the more recent drop in the rates. Despite the fluctuations in overall recidivism, participation in reintegration programs remains associated with lower rates of recidivism.

III. RESEARCH IN PROGRESS IN 1986

Evaluation of the Lancaster Visiting Cottage Program

Ann Marie Rocheleau

The Lancaster Visiting Cottage Program is a program whereby children can visit overnight with their incarcerated mothers in three-bedroom trailers located on site at MCI-Lancaster, a minimum and pre-release facility. The objectives of the research are to: 1) provide feedback to program staff and the program's Advisory Board throughout the first year; 2) monitor participation; and, 3) gather data on the perceptions of program impact. These and other data were gathered through interviews with the inmate mothers, caretakers, and Lancaster staff, as well as through the implementation of several monitoring devices, including an intake visit sheet, and a visit log. The final report is expected to be ready for distribution in the Spring of 1987.

An Analysis of the Inmates in the Departmental Segregation Unit

Ann Marie Rocheleau

The Department of Correction (DOC) operates the Departmental Segregation Unit (DSU) which houses inmates who have been deemed to pose a substantial threat to the safety of others or to the institution itself. The current study is a further analysis of the data used in a companion report entitled, "Inmates in the Departmental Segregation Unit" (1986). The current report will compare the inmates classified to the DSU during 1983 with inmates residing at MCI-Cedar Junction and the total DOC population at that time. It will also include an analysis of the heterogeneity of the DSU population and its implications for programming. Finally, comparisons will be made between the 1983 and 1986 DSU populations in order to measure any shifts in the DSU population.

Evaluation of DSU II

Ann Marie Rocheleau

The Departmental Segregation Unit, Phase II at MCI-Norfolk (DSU II) is a program-oriented segregation unit designed to reintegrate segregation inmates into the general inmate population. This evaluation focuses on the first two years of the unit, monitoring the inmates who went into the unit and their subsequent release to either the general population or back to DSU I. A comparison of DSU II completers and non-completers will be made. This evaluation will also examine the effects of the unit on the total number of DSU inmates and on DSU recidivism.

Evaluation of Substance Abuse Programming at MCI-Cedar Junction

Ann Marie Rocheleau

The focus of this evaluation is two-fold. The first is to present a detailed description of all the substance abuse programming at MCI-Cedar Junction in Walpole. The description will include an examination of the target and actual populations, the program activities and the people and circumstances that affect the programs. The main focus, however, is on the Program Unit for Substance Abusers which opened in 1984. Inmates who apply and are screened to reside in this unit must agree to a classification contract which outlines program requirements and designates transfer to lower security after a specified period of time. In addition to the detailed description of this unit, an impact evaluation was conducted. This part of the evaluation will examine the impact of the Program Unit on the long-term abstinence of Program Unit completers. A before and after comparison was made among four groups: Program Unit completers, non-completers, applicants, and a control group of inmates who have been identified as substance abusers.

An Evaluation of the Longwood Treatment Center

Daniel P. LeClair and Lynn Felici

In March 1985, the Department of Correction embarked on a mission unique to corrections with the opening of the Longwood Treatment Center, the state's first minimum security prison designed exclusively for the treatment of multiple offenders of Massachusetts' Operating Under the Influence of Liquor (OUI) statutes.

Coterminous with the opening of Longwood, a process evaluation was begun by the Research Division with the intention of evaluating program implementation, gauging program effectiveness, and providing feedback to a variety of program planners within the particular social system.

The present evaluation comprehensively portrays the Longwood program from its inception to its present operation by examining its historical foundation, the philosophy and goals of the program, the demographic characteristics, social and criminal history of the OUI offenders served there, the treatment process from a resident's admission to release, and the aftercare component of the program. Further, the report will highlight the impact of the program on the post-release adjustment of Longwood graduates, looking at both arrests incurred by releases subsequent to discharge and the post-Longwood drinking behaviors of the program completers. Finally, the report will highlight some of the most salient observations made by researchers in reference to program strengths and limitations, as well as discuss the feasibility of a future formal long term follow up.

**Massachusetts Correctional Industries: Descriptive
Systems Analysis and Progress - Outcome Evaluation
With Organizational Development Recommendations**

Winifred Gayle Allen

A precursor of Prison Industries dated back to 1656 when the Massachusetts Bay Colony required inmates to perform manual labor. More recently, the 1972 Correction Reform Act (GL 777) directed the Commissioner of Correction to establish Industries vocational programs based on inmate training needs. The Act also repealed the 1898 State Use Law (GL 127), thus permitting the sale of prison produced goods & services to non-governmental markets.

A 1987 preliminary review of Department of Correction/Massachusetts Correctional Industries (DOC/MCI) program - related documents indicates that the Industries program has planned and is working toward the attainment of its inmate training, manufacturing productivity, and market objectives. A need has therefore emerged for a research study which evaluates the program's progress and outcomes.

The proposed research will have three objectives. Objective one is to conduct a social systems analysis of the relationship between the DOC and MCI. This will involve a small sample interview exploration of DOC organizational functions and MCI operations. The sample will be the DOC/MCI middle management strata, which are indirectly or directly involved in Industries program implementation. Objective two is to evaluate Industries progress and outcomes. This will involve a larger sample, perhaps including inmates. A check-off questionnaire, based on management concerns identified during the first exploratory stage, will be the data collection method. The third objective is to present executive report-formatted recommendations from an organizational development perspective and reflecting a range of concerns. Data analysis methods used during the study may be both qualitative or quantitative depending upon the nature of the data.

**Survey of Research and Evaluation
Priorities of DOC Central Office Administrators
and Institutional Administrators**

Michael W. Forcier

The Department of Correction's (DOC) Strategic Plan outlines DOC goals and corresponding strategic objectives including "results which are capable of being evaluated, measured, and monitored". In recognition of this, the DOC Research Division will undertake a Survey of DOC Central Office Administrators and Institutional Superintendents in order to obtain their perceptions of research needs and priorities. The need for this survey stems from an increased interest in research and evaluation, and recognition of the potential role of research to inform policy and program development, institutional operations and management, while also being of benefit to the outside community. The information obtained from this survey will be used to help the Research Division prioritize research projects, incorporate the necessary information into the Division's data-base, and plan for personnel. The survey is scheduled for completion by March 15, 1987.

The survey will be administered in person in a semi-structured interview format by the Deputy Director of Research. Two different types of respondents will be interviewed: 1) DOC Central Office Administrators; (Executive Staff and Division Directors) and, 2) Institutional Superintendents. Site visits will be made to each of the institutions for purposes of conducting interviews. Interviews with Central Office Administrators will be conducted at the DOC Central office.

Evaluation Of The Classification And Program Agreements System

Michael W. Forcier

This study will evaluate the Classification and Program Agreements (CAPA) system, the DOC classification program in which an inmate has the option to sign a written document, or CAPA, which indicates his/her program needs, the actions to be taken to address those needs, the institution where the sentence will be served, and the transfer schedule according to which the inmate will be moved through the system, from higher to lower levels of security, contingent upon their adherence to the conditions specified in the CAPA. Inmates who abide by the CAPA by participating in designated program areas and adhering to special conditions such as remaining free of disciplinary reports, are to be transferred to reduced security levels according to a standard movement chronology.

The objectives of this evaluation will be to: 1) determine if inmates signing the CAPA adhere to its conditions and are moved through the system according to the standard movement chronology; 2) compare the extent of program participation of inmates who sign the CAPA versus those who choose not to sign a CAPA; 3) compare the disciplinary histories of inmates who sign a CAPA versus those who do not sign a CAPA; 4) compare the movement patterns of CAPA versus non-CAPA inmates; and, 5) compare returns to higher custody of CAPA versus non-CAPA inmates.

The study will focus on MCI-Concord, the DOC reception and diagnostic center, where initial classification and reclassification is conducted. The study is scheduled to begin in July 1987.

Outcome Evaluation of the Western Massachusetts Correctional Alcohol Center

Michael W. Forcier

This outcome evaluation will consist of a follow-up of alcohol-involved offenders released from the Western Massachusetts Correctional Alcohol Center and a program cost analysis. The research will focus on what happens to clients once they leave the program and factors that impact post-release behavior.

The follow-up analysis will entail assessment of whether clients remain crime free over a certain period of time, their post-release drinking behavior, and community adjustment. Standard measures and data collection techniques will be used to collect recidivism data for the released population. The program cost analysis will be based upon a review of expenditure records, budgets and contracts.

The study is scheduled to begin in July 1987.

Norfolk Fellowship Impact Model and Program Evaluation

Winifred Gayle Allen

The Norfolk Fellowship, a voluntary non-profit inmate support program, was started in 1957 at MCI-Norfolk by Reverend Robert L. Dulton. Its major objectives are to foster inmate self worth via involvement with diverse community-member volunteers, and to reduce recidivism. The non-sectarian Norfolk Fellowship Foundation (NFF) was incorporated in 1963, and its program of discussion group meetings occurs at 6 prison locations - MCI-Norfolk, Bay State Correctional Center, Northeastern Correctional Center, MCI-Cedar Junction, MCI-Lancaster, and the Medfield Prison project. Although mostly privately funded, NFF now has a service contract with MCI-Cedar Junction.

Past studies of the NFF program have been conducted by the DOC Research Division - in 1968, 1969, and 1975, and the Fellowship administration recently requested an updated evaluation. Earlier investigations have emphasized program participant background and historical attributes, e.g., age or marital status, as they influenced recidivism. The objective of the presently proposed study is to expand previous investigations by specifying and then evaluating a more program-oriented impact model, consisting of the multiple variable influences of attributes, program experiences, and self and other perceptions on recidivism. Looking at the influence of multiple variables on recidivism outcomes in a single analysis model will perhaps allow NFF administration to better target its participants and fine tune its program activities.

Data collection methods, depending upon feasibility, will include questionnaires, self and other esteem inventories, and reviews of DOC/Fellowship inmate database information. Analysis methods will most likely involve the use of one or more multivariate statistical procedures, the selection of which will be determined by the data distribution.

**Disciplinary Reports Issued In The
Massachusetts Department Of Correction,
1984**

February 1987

Linda K. Holt

During 1984 there were 15,291 disciplinary reports written involving 3,949 different individuals. This bulletin contains a statistical description of these disciplinary reports including: reporting institution, offense, finding, sanction and characteristics of the offenders incurring the reports. Some highlights of the findings in this bulletin are:

- The number of disciplinary reports written in 1984 ranged from 26 at the Medfield Prison Project to 5,741 at Cedar Junction. Three facilities, (Cedar Junction, Norfolk and Framingham) accounted for 69 percent of all reports.
- Over half of the individuals in the DOC during 1984 incurred one or more disciplinary reports. The number of disciplinary reports incurred ranged from one to seventy-seven. The median number of reports incurred (for offenders with at least one disciplinary report) was two.
- Seventy-one percent of the disciplinary reports were classified as major and 29 percent as minor.
- Of the 31 offenses involved in disciplinary reports, the three most frequently cited were: number 2, violating rules; number 1, disobeying, lying or insolence; and number 8, disrupting order.
- Seventy percent of all disciplinary reports resulted in a guilty finding.
- The most common sanctions imposed were isolation time, extra work and room restriction.
- Eighty-four percent of all sanctions were invoked, 15 percent were suspended and 1 percent were handled in another way.
- Nine percent of all disciplinary report findings were appealed.

**Transinstitutionalization in the Human Service Sector:
An Examination of Female Population Movement
Between Mental Health and Correctional Institutions**

February 1987

**Linda K. Holt
Sara A. Mattes**

Correction officials in the United States have asserted that changes in the mental health system led to an increase in the number of mentally ill offenders being placed within the correctional system, a process that is referred to as transinstitutionalization. The purpose of the present study is to examine this assertion by considering client movement between Massachusetts mental health and Massachusetts correctional institutions among a population of incarcerated adult women from 1970 to 1980.

Results of the empirical analysis indicated that a substantial proportion of women entering the correctional system had prior in-patient placements in public mental health facilities. While there were significant differences in the proportion of women entering the correctional system with a history of placements in the mental health system in the three study years, these differences were not in the direction predicted by the original charge.

The empirical analysis also indicated that those women with prior placements in the mental health system were also likely to have prior placements in the correctional system, that women with a history of placement in the mental health system had criminal records that were very similar to offenders with no history of prior mental health placements, and that the patterns of prior placements in the mental health system was also linked to two charges in the criminal justice system that occurred during the study period (the decriminalization of the offenses of drunkenness and the centralization of the correctional system for female offenders in the state of Massachusetts).

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
REVIEW OF CURRENT RESEARCH

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS
COLLECTION

APR 15 1988

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MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

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Commissioner

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INTRODUCTION

During 1987, the Research Division of the Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC) conducted several special research projects and produced a number of statistical reports describing the DOC inmate population. This report presents a review of the research that stemmed from these projects and from the annual statistical reports. The abstracts reproduced in this report summarize specific findings from each of the studies and statistical reports cited.

This report is divided into three major sections reflecting the different areas of research conducted by the Research Division in 1987. The first section covers a series of statistical descriptions of the state prison and county facility populations. The second section includes abstracts of findings from special evaluative and descriptive projects completed in 1987. The third section includes abstracts from research in progress in 1987.

The first section of this document consists of abstracts from reports which the Research Division produces annually. The reports in this section present updated information on the status and characteristics of the state and county prison population. The first in this series of reports is a statistical description of the 5,636 residents in DOC facilities as of January 1, 1987. The next report provides a statistical description of the offenders committed by the courts to a Massachusetts county facility (jail or house of correction) during 1986 and presents information on institution committed to, court committed from, month of commitment, offense, sentence length, sentence type, age, sex, race, marital status, education, place of birth and residence. The third report presents a

statistical description of individuals committed by the court to a county correctional facility in Massachusetts for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol (O.U.I.) during 1986, trends in commitment for this offense, and some comparative information on the O.U.I. population and county offenders committed for other offenses. The fourth report contains a statistical description of the number, distribution and outcomes of furloughs for the year 1986 as well as a trend analysis of furloughs since the inception of the program in 1972.

The fifth report in this series presents a statistical description of the offenders released to the street from a Massachusetts correctional facility during 1986 and presents some information on trends among releases over the last six years. The sixth statistical report is a description of the individuals committed by the courts to a term of incarceration in the Massachusetts Department of Correction during 1986, including information on the nature of the present offense, personal background characteristics and criminal history of these individuals. The seventh report assesses population change and summarizes all movement of offenders in DOC custody during the calendar year of 1986 including information presented according to the institution of admission or release on: new court commitments, paroles, returns on parole violation, discharges, escapes, deaths, transfers to other correctional facilities both within and outside the state and temporary releases to hospitals and courts. The eighth and ninth reports present a statistical description of offenders released to the street from Massachusetts facilities with a pre-release component during 1985 with corresponding recidivism rates. The tenth report is a statistical bulletin on escapes and returns from escape that occurred during 1986 and contains descriptive information on returns and escapes including: institution and security level from which the escape occurred, type of escape, current status of the escape, length of time at large, and characteristics of the individual escaping. The eleventh and twelfth reports

contain an analysis of disciplinary reports issued in 1984 and 1985, respectively.

Studies summarized in the second section present findings from special evaluations and descriptions of DOC-sponsored programs and selected prison populations. The first report is a survey of research and evaluation priorities among DOC central office administrators and institutional administrators. The second report provides an evaluation of the Longwood Treatment Center, a minimum security prison for multiple drunken driving offenders. The third study is an evaluation of the MCI-Lancaster Visiting Cottage Program in which children can visit overnight with their incarcerated mothers in specially designated trailers.

Two statistical studies have been accomplished in 1987. The first is an examination of client movement between Massachusetts mental health and Massachusetts correctional institutions among a population of incarcerated adult women from 1970 to 1980. The second is an analysis of program availability and program participation at the Deer Island House of Correction.

In 1987, the Research Division began seven new studies. The first research is an evaluation of the inmate classification system. The second project is a process evaluation of a substance abuse treatment program at MCI-Shirley. Third, the division has undertaken a recidivism study of correctional alcohol treatment facilities for multiple drunk driving offenders two. Fourth, the Research Division began an evaluation of the Norfolk Fellowship Program which brings inmates and members of the local community together to discuss a wide range of issues in a group setting. The fifth project is an evaluation of Massachusetts Correctional Industries.

Two statistical studies were undertaken in 1987. The first is an analysis of the sex offenders in custody of the Massachusetts Department of Correction. The second study is a computerized model of prison population trends.

Information in each of the annual reports is institution-specific; that is, the

data are reported by the institution where the inmate is a resident, released from, or admitted to. Consequently, much of the information in each annual report is available for the entire correctional system as well as individual institutions.

In addition to the annual reports, the Research Division also produces quarterly reports on the status of prison overcrowding, and monthly statistical reports on admissions to and releases from the Department of Correction which includes information on participation in some inmate programs (furloughs, state hospital, work release).

Copies of the full reports and studies may be obtained by writing to:

**Research Division-21st Floor
Massachusetts Department of Correction
State Office Building
100 Cambridge Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02202**

ABSTRACTS

14570.22?

**1986 COURT COMMITMENTS TO MASSACHUSETTS
COUNTY FACILITIES FOR OPERATING UNDER
THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL**

#312

June 87

Linda K. Holt

This report presents a statistical description of individuals committed by the courts to county correctional facilities in Massachusetts for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol (O.U.I.) during 1986. This report also presents information on trends in commitments for this offense and draws comparisons between the O.U.I. inmates and county offenders committed for other offenses. Some highlights of the information contained in this report are:

- In 1986 there were 2,687 offenders committed to county facilities for O.U.I. This is an increase of 27 percent over the 2,118 commitments for O.U.I. in 1985.
- The median sentence length for O.U.I. commitments was 2 months. This is the same as the median sentence length of 1985 commitments. It is more than six times the median sentence length of those committed in 1983 (10 days).
- The 2,687 persons committed for O.U.I. represent 26 percent of all offenders committed to the counties in 1986. This is an increase from 1985 when 22 percent of all commitments were for O.U.I.
- Commitments for O.U.I. varied by county ranging from 8 percent of all commitments in Suffolk County to 35 percent of all commitments in Norfolk County.
- The typical offender committed for O.U.I. in 1986 was white, 29 years old, male, single and a high school graduate.

FURLOUGH PROGRAM IN MASSACHUSETTS DOC IN 1986

#316

August 1987

Lisa Lorant

The furlough program has been in operation in the Massachusetts Department of Correction since November 6, 1972. A total of 115,274 furloughs have been granted until December 1986. During that period, 645 furloughs resulted in escapes defined as a resident's failure to return to his/her correctional facility within two hours of the appointed time of return. Overall furlough escape rate was 0.6 percent or 6 escapes per 1000 furloughs granted. This report contains statistical description of furloughs for the year 1986 as well as an analysis of the trends since the inception of the program in 1972.

Between January 1, 1986 and December 31, 1986, a total of 8,896 furloughs were granted. The number of individuals receiving furloughs in 1986 was 1,645. During 1986, 11 furloughs resulted in an escape, yielding an overall escape rate of 0.1 percent or 1 escape per 1000 furloughs granted.

From the inception of the furlough program through 1982 there was an overall decline in the number of furloughs granted, the number of offenders furloughed, and the percentage of the released inmates who participated in the furlough program while serving this sentence. The escape rate showed a parallel decline during this period. The trend became more complex in 1983: - from 1983 to 1985 there was an increase in the number of furloughs granted and of individuals who were furloughed, while the proportion of released inmates who were furloughed and of escapes continued to decline; - in 1986 the number of furloughs per individual decreased, reversing the trend of the three former years. The decline in the proportion of inmates participating in the furlough program prior to release was attributed to the increasing number of women and other offenders with short sentences among the releasees. The decline in escapes was related to a relatively recent change in the type of furlough granted at secure institutions, requiring that the inmate be escorted while on furlough.

HS70-111
6

A STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION OF RELEASES FROM
MASSACHUSETTS CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS DURING 1986

#319

November 1987

Lisa Lorant

This report presents a statistical description of the 3,022 offenders released to the street from a Massachusetts correctional facility during 1986. It also includes information on trends over the last six years. Some in releases highlights of the information included in this report are:

- The 3,022 releases in 1986 represent an increase of 691 (30 percent) over 1985 releases and an increase of 1904 (170 percent) over 1981 releases.
- The number of males released during 1986 increased by 38 percent from last year, while the number of females released during 1986 increased by 10 percent.
- 59 percent were released by parole, 30 percent were discharged and 11 percent were released by expiration of sentence.
- 52 percent were released from secure facilities and 48 percent were released from lower security facilities. Many of those released from secure facilities were females serving county sentences or male parole violators.
- The average time served was 55.3 months for individuals serving Cedar Junction sentences, 23.7 months for individuals serving Concord sentences, and 5.7 months for individuals serving Framingham sentences.

HS70.13

1986 COURT COMMITMENTS TO THE
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

#317

August 1987

Linda K. Holt

This report is a statistical description of the 2,533 individuals committed by the courts to a term of incarceration in the Massachusetts Department of Correction during the year 1986. The tables in this report contain information on the nature of present offense, personal background characteristics and criminal history of these individuals. Some highlights of the statistics presented in this report are:

- There was a 5 percent increase in the number of commitments during the year, from 2,409 in 1985 to 2,533 in 1986. The 2,533 commitments in 1986 represent the highest level of commitments in DOC history.
- There were 1,033 commitments to Cedar Junction (4 percent higher than 1985), 662 commitments to Concord (7 percent higher than 1985) and 838 commitments to Framingham (5 percent higher than 1985).
- Male and female commitments increased equally by 5 percent.
- The median minimum sentence for Cedar Junction commitments was five years; the median maximum sentence for Concord commitments was ten years; and the median maximum sentence for Framingham commitments was less than 1 year. Sentence lengths for new court commitments were similar in 1985 and 1986.
- Violent offenses (person and sex) accounted for 58 percent of all male commitments and 9 percent of all female commitments. Non-violent offenses (property, drug and "other") represented 91 percent of all female commitments and 42 percent of all male commitments. From 1985 to 1986 there were increases in commitments for drug offenses (up 42 percent), "other" offenses (up 16 percent), and sex offenses (up 5 percent). There were decreases in commitments for property offenses (down 9 percent), and person offenses (down 5 percent).
- The median age at commitment was 27 years, slightly higher than in 1985 (26 years).
- 61 percent of the committed population were white; 62 percent were single; 9 percent had been in the military; 44 percent came from the Boston SMSA; most had limited work experience concentrated in the areas of manual labor and services; the median educational level was twelfth grade and, 32 percent had a self-reported history of drug use.
- 56 percent were serving their first adult incarceration. The median age at first court appearance was eighteen.

POPULATION MOVEMENTS IN THE MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION DURING 1986

#308

June 1987

Lisa Lorant

The Department of Correction routinely monitors population movement in the state correctional system. This report assesses population change and summarizes all movement of offenders in DOC custody during the calendar year 1986. The information is presented according to the institution of admission or release and includes the following data: new court commitments, paroles, returns on parole violation, discharges, escapes, deaths, transfers to other correctional facilities both within the state and outside of the state, and temporary releases to hospitals and courts.

During 1986 there were 15,796 admissions of all types and 15,565 releases. This constitutes an 8 percent increase in admissions over last year and a 10 percent increase in releases. These 31,361 moves involved 7,970 individuals.

Overall, the state prison population increased by 4 percent between 1985 and 1986, compared to an increase of 9 percent from 1984 to 1985.

There were 2,533 new admissions through court commitments including From and After Sentences, an increase of 5 percent from last year.

There were 876 parole violators returned to the DOC, an increase of 23 percent from last year.

There was a 19 percent rise in transfers from other authorities, (county, federal or out-of-state), 535 in 1986 compared to 451 in 1985.

There were 3,046 releases to the street i.e. releases by parole, expiration of sentence or good conduct discharge. This is a 29 percent increase compared to 1985.

STATISTICAL TABLES DESCRIBING THE BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS AND
 RECIDIVISM RATES FOR RELEASES FROM MASSACHUSETTS
 CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS
 DURING 1985

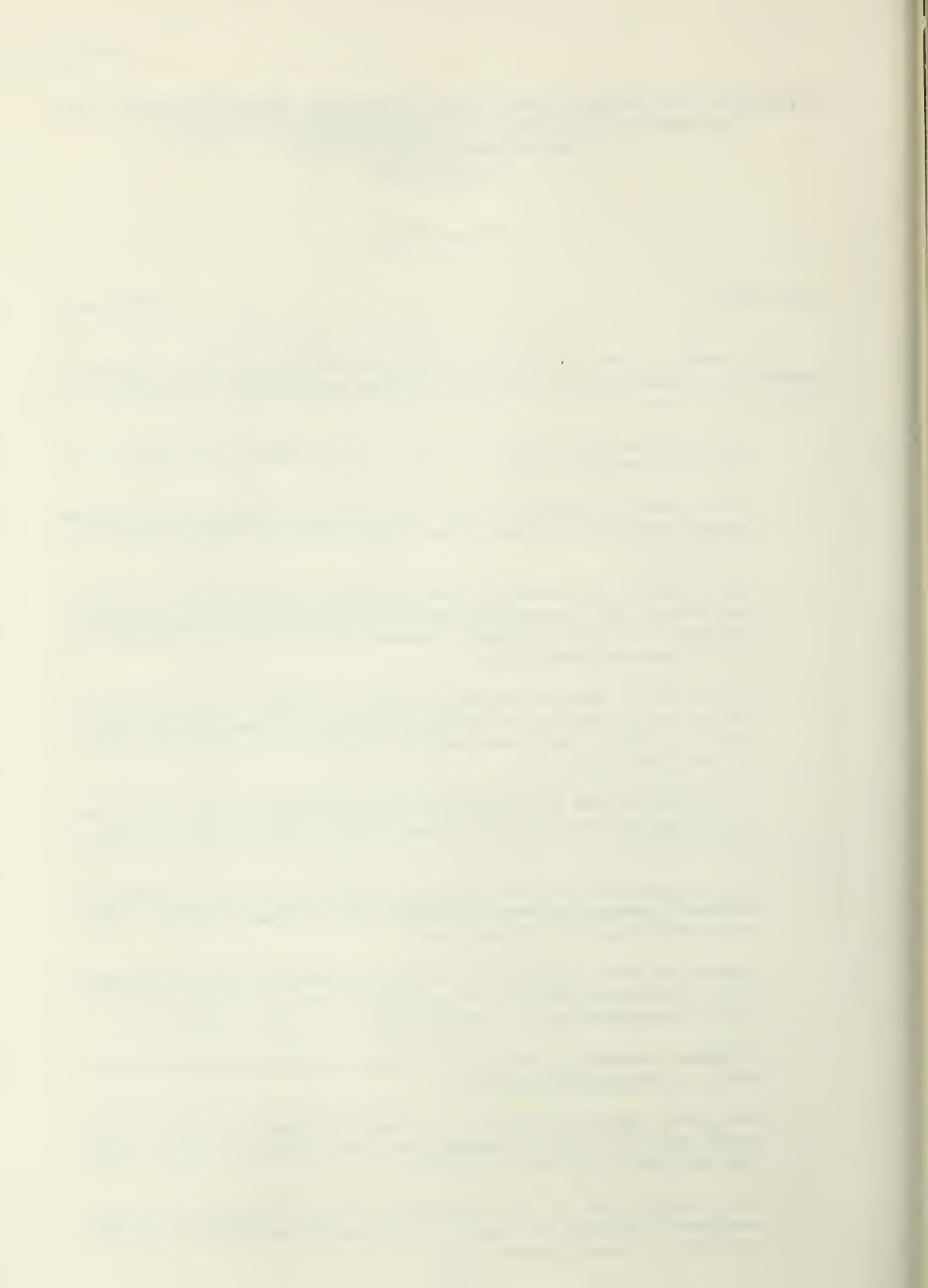
#321 and #322

January 1988

Lisa Lorant

This report is the first of two reports on recidivism rates of offenders released from Department of Correction facilities during 1985. Some highlights from this report are:

- The recidivism rate in 1985 was 27%. This is higher than the rates from 1984 (25%) and 1983 (21%).
- The increase in recidivism rates occurred at the same time that the number of releases increased, from 1,726 in 1983; to 1,888 in 1984; and 1,979 in 1985.
- The recidivism rate varied by security level of the institution from which the offender was released: 36% for maximum, 32% for medium, 28% for minimum, 19% for minimum/pre-release, 19% for state pre-release and 21% for contract pre-release.
- From 1984 to 1985 the recidivism rate for releases from maximum or medium security institutions stayed the same at 32%, while the recidivism rate for releases from lower security facilities increased from 16% in 1984 to 20% in 1985.
- The recidivism rate for males was 26%, an increase from the 1984 figure of 24% and the rate for females was 30% an increase from last year's figure of 29%
- Among males, the recidivism rate was 27% for those serving a Walpole sentence (compared to 24% for 1984) and 27% for those serving a Concord sentence (compared to 24% for 1984).
- Recidivists were returned for a variety of reasons: 19% for technical parole violations, 48% for a parole violation involving a new arrest, and 32% for re-incarceration on a new offense.
- Offenders released by parole had a higher recidivism rate (29%) than those who were discharged (21%).
- For males, those committed for property offenses had the highest recidivism rate (33%); for females, those committed for "other" offenses had the highest recidivism rate (34%).
- The recidivism rate for those released with no prior adult incarcerations was lower (21%) than for those with a history of one (27%) or more than one (36%) prior adult incarcerations.



- The recidivism rate for offenders with no furloughs prior to release was 31% and the recidivism rate for individuals with furloughs prior to release was 16%.

A PROFILE OF ESCAPES AND RETURNS FROM ESCAPE
DURING 1986 AND INDIVIDUALS ON ESCAPE STATUS
ON DECEMBER 31, 1986

#320

December 1987

Linda K. Holt

Information on escapes and returns from escape that occurred in 1986 presented in this report includes specifically: - institutions from which the escape was undertaken by security level; - type of escape; - current status of escape; - length of time at large; - background characteristics of the escapees.

The following findings highlight the situation:

- During 1986 there were 306 escapes and 305 returns from escapes. This was an increase of 22 escapes and 26 returns from the previous year.
- The escape rate in 1986 was 3.3 per 100, which is lower than in any of the nine preceding years.
- There were only 6 escapes from secure facilities, most of which had no escapes at all. All other escapes were walkaways from low security facilities or failures to return from furloughs or work release programs.
- Most escapes are resolved quickly. 53 percent of those returned are back within one week of escape. 84 percent of all 1986 escapees were returned to the DOC or known to be in the custody of another correctional agency at the end of the year.
- At the end of 1986 there were 92 individuals at large from the DOC, including 48 who escaped in this year.

H5

DISCIPLINARY REPORTS ISSUED IN THE
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

#305

July 1987

Linda K. Holt

This bulletin contains a statistical description of the disciplinary reports issued within the DOC in 1984. The variables by which the reports are tabulated include: -reporting institution; -type of offense; -positive or negative finding; -sanction, and -background characteristics of the offenders incurring the reports. Key findings reported in the bulletin are:

- During 1984 there were 15,291 disciplinary reports written, involving 3,949 individuals.
- Cedar Junction, Norfolk and Framingham accounted for 69 percent of all disciplinary reports. The number of reports by facility ranged from 26 at the Medfield Prison Project to 5,741 at Cedar Junction.
- The number of disciplinary reports incurred by individuals ranged from 1 to 77 and the median was 2.
- 71 percent of the disciplinary reports were classified as major and 29 percent as minor.
- Of the 31 offenses involved in disciplinary reports, the 3 most frequently cited were: -violating rules; -disobeying, lying or insolence; and -disrupting order.
- 70 percent of all reports resulted in a guilty finding.
- The most common sanctions imposed were isolation time, extra work and work restriction.
- 84 percent of sanctions were invoked, 15 percent were suspended and 1 percent were handled in another way.
- 9 percent of all disciplinary report findings were appealed.

DISCIPLINARY
REPORTS ISSUED IN THE MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION, 1985

#315

July 87

Linda K. Holt

During 1985 there were 19,121 disciplinary reports issued involving 4,304 individuals. This bulletin contains a statistical description of these disciplinary reports, including: reporting institution, offense, finding, sanction and characteristics of the offenders incurring the reports. Key findings characterizing the situation are:

- 19,121 disciplinary reports issued in 1985 represent an increase of 25 percent (N=3830) over the 15,291 disciplinary reports written in 1984.
- The number of disciplinary reports written in 1985 ranged from 2 at Hodder House to 8,737 at Cedar Junction. Cedar Junction and Norfolk accounted for 62 percent of all reports.
- 54 percent of the inmates in custody of the DOC during 1985 incurred one or more disciplinary reports. The number of disciplinary reports by one individual ranged from one to one hundred and three. The median number of reports per person was two.
- 68 percent of the disciplinary reports were classified as major, 31 percent as minor, and 1 percent were referred to the District Attorney.
- Of the 31 offenses involved in disciplinary reports, the three most frequently cited were: - violating rules; - disobeying, lying or insolence; - disrupting order.
- 65 percent of all disciplinary reports resulted in a guilty finding.
- The most common sanctions imposed were isolation time, extra work, loss of privileges, and reclassification.
- 85 percent of all sanctions were invoked and 15 percent were suspended.
- 9 percent of all disciplinary report findings were appealed.

SURVEY OF RESEARCH AND EVALUATION
PRIORITIES OF DOC CENTRAL OFFICE
ADMINISTRATORS AND INSTITUTIONAL
ADMINISTRATORS

#314

August 1987

Michael W. Forcier

The Department of Correction's (DOC) Strategic Plan outlines DOC goals and corresponding strategic objectives including "results which are capable of being evaluated, measured, and monitored". In recognition of this, the DOC Research Division undertook a Survey of DOC Central Office Administrators and Institutional Administrators in order to obtain their perceptions of research needs and priorities. The information obtained from this survey will be used to help the Research Division prioritize research projects, incorporate desired information into the Division's data-base, and plan for personnel.

The Survey was administered in a semi-structured interview format. Two different groups of respondents were interviewed: DOC Central Office Administrators (Division Directors) and Institutional Superintendents. A seven item interview schedule was designed to tap three areas: 1) critical needs or problems administrators face in operating their division/institution; 2) research studies administrators would like to see undertaken and inmate programs they would like to see evaluated; and, 3) types of information not currently available which they would like to have on the inmate population.

Critical needs and problems cited by survey respondents clustered into four major areas: Inmate classification; Programs; Resources; and Information Needs. Three types of research were most frequently mentioned as valuable for purposes of policy and program development: Program Impact Evaluation, Comparative Research; and, Population Trend Analyses. The major areas for research studies and program evaluations suggested by survey respondents included: Staff; Classification; Substance Abuse; Psychological Services; Medical; Education; and, Industries. The types of information on the inmate population survey respondents would like to receive included pre-incarceration histories, programmatic services inmates receive, and, sensitive case inmates (e.g., protective custody).

After the survey results were compiled, discussions were held with Executive Staff in order to obtain their input and advice concerning future directions for research based upon the survey results. In terms of types of research which should be conducted, Executive Staff placed a strong emphasis on program evaluations and population trend analyses. In terms of actual research topics, four potential studies were suggested by Executive Staff: reasons for staff turnover among correctional officers and correctional counselors; research on barred visitors; research relating to the design of new facilities; and, a statistical analysis of how the DOC spends its budget.

On the basis of the survey results and discussions with Executive Staff, the Research Division proposes to undertake five research projects beginning in fiscal

year 1988. They are: Evaluation of Unit Management Within the Correctional System; Research Study of the Sex Offender Population; Process Evaluation of MCI-Framingham; Outcome Evaluation of the Longwood Treatment Center and Western Massachusetts Correctional Center; and, Research Study of the Substance Abuse Unit at MCI-Shirley.

H570.2:V52

THE USE OF PRISON CONFINEMENT FOR THE
TREATMENT OF MULTIPLE DRUNKEN DRIVER
OFFENDERS: AN EVALUATION OF THE
LONGWOOD TREATMENT CENTER

#311B

June 1987

Daniel LeClair
Lynn Felici
Edward Klotzbier

In March of 1985, the Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC) embarked on a unique mission with the opening of the Longwood Treatment Center, the state's first minimum security prison designed exclusively to detain and provide alcoholism education and treatment to multiple drunken driving offenders. At Longwood, the DOC contracts out the treatment services to Valle Associates, a private treatment vendor, and retains responsibility for the management and security of the facility.

Coterminous with the opening of Longwood, a process evaluation was begun. Its purpose was multifaceted - to determine the extent to which the program was implemented as planned and serving the target population as specified, to address preliminary outcome measures of program success, to analyze the various costs of the Longwood program, to provide feedback to program administrators concerning program implementation and operation.

The following report presents the results of the evaluation effort. First, research revealed that the program was indeed implemented as planned. Although a series of internal and external forces impacted the process of implementation and subsequently led to program adjustments, the overall intended program structure and context was achieved and Longwood emerged as a smoothly run, professional operation.

Research also determined that the program serves the intended target population. Offenders served at Longwood are neither new to the courts nor to public and private alcohol treatment programs.

Secondly, preliminary outcome measures revealed that relatively few individuals completing the program are rearrested and returned to prison within one year of release. Our research demonstrated that 6% of the Longwood program completers were returned to prison within one year of release. This compares to a department wide recidivism rate of 25% and to a rate of 19% for other low security institutions similar to the Longwood program.

Although in general the research findings were positive, a number of issues were raised and recommendations made to program administrators concerning program modifications. For example, the aftercare component of the program needs to be strengthened, the counseling and correction staffs need to be restructured, and the costs of operating the Longwood program need to be reevaluated. A discussion of these and other issues is included in the report.

In conclusion, the innovative concept of providing alcohol education and treatment to a specific, designated and relatively homogeneous population within the confines of a correctional setting, was proven through this evaluation to be not only feasible, but desirable and practicable. Although the study was not intended as a formal outcome evaluation, preliminary findings suggest in fact that the program is effective in reducing recidivism among multiple drunk drivers, as well as impacting on the alcoholic behaviors of such offenders. It is recommended that a future formal outcome evaluation be initiated.

JOINING INCARCERATED MOTHERS WITH THEIR
CHILDREN: EVALUATION OF THE LANCASTER
VISITING COTTAGE PROGRAM

HS70.7:J66

#309B

June 1987

Ann Marie Rocheleau

The Massachusetts Department of Correction opened an innovative program in January 1985, whereby children could visit overnight with their incarcerated mothers. The Lancaster Visiting Cottage Program, located at MCI-Lancaster, a minimum and pre-release co-correctional facility, offers a private and comfortable setting for the extended visits in the program's fully-equipped three-bedroom trailers. This report is the result of a process evaluation of the program's first year in operation.

During 1985, there were 111 extended visits between 30 inmate mothers and 51 of their children. Most of the visits occurred on the weekends, usually lasting two nights. Although some of the visits involved two or more children, the majority of visits involved a single child. Controlling for the length of time spent at Lancaster, the female participants averaged an extended program visit every 42 days.

Perhaps the most important finding of the evaluation was that the program was implemented as planned. Despite the initial skepticism and resistance to such an innovative program, it was smoothly implemented through the hard work of the program staff and with the support of the Lancaster administration and the program's Advisory Board.

The evaluation also yielded a wealth of information regarding the inmate mothers who were program participants. For example, significant differences were found in the backgrounds and needs of long-term vs. short-term inmate mothers. This information, coupled with the knowledge about the effects of separation and the needs of inmate mothers, can be utilized in future program and policy planning.

TRANSINSTITUTIONALIZATION IN THE HUMAN
SERVICE SECTOR: AN EXAMINATION OF FEMALE
POPULATION MOVEMENT BETWEEN MENTAL HEALTH
AND CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

#313

June 1987

Linda K. Holt
Sarah Mattes

Corrections officials have asserted that changes in the mental health system were associated with an increase in the number of mentally ill offenders placed within the correctional system, a process that is referred to as transinstitutionalization. The purpose of the present study is to examine this assertion by considering the mental health placement history of a population of incarcerated adult women for the years 1970, 1975 and 1980.

Results of the empirical analysis indicate that a substantial proportion of women entering the correctional system have prior in-patient placements in public mental health facilities. While there are significant differences in the proportion of women entering the correctional system with a history of placements in the mental health system in the three study years, these differences are not in the direction predicted by the original charge. The proportion of women with prior in-patient placements declined from 39% in 1970, to 19% in 1975, only slightly increasing to 22% in 1980.

The empirical analysis also indicates: - that women with prior placements in the mental health system often have prior placements in the correctional system, - that women with a history of placement in the mental health system have criminal records similar to offenders with no history of prior mental health placements, and - that the pattern of prior placements in the mental health system is also linked to two changes in the criminal justice system that occurred during the study period (the decriminalization of the offense of drunkenness and the centralization of the correctional system for female offenders in the state of Massachusetts).

H570.2.Su29

SUFFOLK COUNTY HOUSE OF CORRECTION AT
DEER ISLAND - RESULTS OF INMATE SURVEY

#318

September 1987

Linda K. Holt

This paper reports the results of a survey of 123 inmates at the Deer Island House of Correction. The survey was sponsored by the Crime and Justice Foundation with technical assistance provided by staff of the Research Division of the Department of Correction. The sample represents about one-fourth of the population at the facility. Inmates were asked about their personal background, criminal history, alcohol and drug use, and participation in program. The purpose of the survey was twofold: 1) to describe the characteristics of the inmate population with particular attention to those characteristics that relate to program needs and, 2) to explore patterns of program participation at the facility including inmates' knowledge about available programs, their current participation in programs, and their desire to participate in programs. The main findings of the survey are:

- The median age of the sample was 24 years.
- The sample was 45 percent black, 37 percent white, 14 percent Hispanic, and 4 percent others.
- 79 percent of the sample were single and 58 percent had children.
- 90 percent had one or more incarcerations prior to the present incarceration.
- The present offenses were: property (50 percent), drug (21 percent), person (15 percent), sex (1 percent), and other (13 percent).
- 34 percent were alcohol abusers or alcoholics, 80 percent report some drug use and 54 percent report daily drug use.
- On average inmates were aware of 5.5 programs. Awareness of programs was related to age in the case of education programs, and housing unit, in the case of overall program awareness.

III. RESEARCH IN PROGRESS IN 1987

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EVALUATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

Michael W. Forcier, Ph.D.

Since 1972, the Massachusetts Department of Correction has experimented with different inmate classification systems. Most recently, the DOC implemented a new system built around a concept called "Classification and Program Agreements" or CAPA. The CAPA is a voluntary program agreement offered to some inmates during a classification hearing when the DOC and inmate agree to a scheduled reduction in security levels according to a "standard movement chronology" contingent upon positive adjustment and program participation for the duration of the agreement.

The primary objective of the present study is to evaluate the overall classification system and CAPA specifically. The present study consists of three phases. Phase 1 is a process analysis of the DOC classification system intended to find out whether the system was implemented as planned. Phase 2 will be a study of a classification validation in order to establish whether the classification criteria are predictive of inmate behavior. Phase 3 will examine the impacts of CAPA by comparing the institutional adjustment and program participation of inmates who have a CAPA with those who are not eligible/suitable for a CAPA and those who choose not to participate in CAPA.

The study is scheduled to begin in January 1988.

EVALUATION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM UNIT AT MCI-SHIRLEY

Michael W. Forcier, Ph.D.

Incarcerated offenders have been found to have histories and rates of alcohol and drug abuse substantially greater than the general population. The relationship between substance abuse and criminality has come under increased attention as research has revealed that one third to one half of incarcerated offenders reported that they were under the influence of an illegal drug or had been drunk before they committed the crime for which they were incarcerated.

At MCI-Shirley, a minimum security level facility, in 1987 approximately 245 or 63% of the 389 inmates had a present offenses or criminal history involving drugs and/or alcohol. Moreover, this has apparently carried over into the institution as 34% (174) of the 507 disciplinary reports written at Shirley in 1985 were for offenses involving alcohol/drugs, misuse of medication, or refusing a drug test.

Recognizing the seriousness of the problem, MCI-Shirley will establish in 1988 a 39-bed Substance Abuse Program Unit based on a therapeutic community model for housing and treating inmates with substance abuse problems.

The Research Division will undertake a process evaluation of this Program Unit in order to examine if the program is implemented as intended, targets the substance abusing population, and provides the designated services. Part of this evaluation will consist of the administration of a program intake screening and assessment form in order to determine which of the 245 inmates with alcohol and/or drug problems should be housed in this unit. This form will obtain information on inmate demographic characteristics, criminal history, alcohol and drug use behavior, and substance abuse treatment history.

This study will begin in January 1988 and is scheduled for completion in December 1988.

ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION FOR MULTIPLE OUI OFFENDERS: ARE THEY SUCCESSFUL?

Julie M. Nardone

Emerging in the wake of more stringent Massachusetts drunk-driving controls has been a new breed of correctional facility -- the correctional alcohol treatment facility. A hybrid of sorts, the correctional alcohol treatment facility melds correctional measures with alcohol treatment in the hopes of alleviating the drinking-driver's problem and precluding him or her from committing future carnage on our highways.

At present, three such facilities exist in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts: the state-run Longwood Treatment Center in Jamaica Plain, the county-run Western Massachusetts Correctional Alcohol Center in Springfield and the county-run Eastern Massachusetts Correctional Alcohol Center in New Bedford.

Since both the Longwood Treatment Center and the Western Massachusetts Correctional Alcohol Center are still in an experimental stage, a post-program evaluation will be conducted in order to assess their effectiveness. This follow-up evaluation will focus on recidivism rates and post-release rearrest for OUI and non-OUI related offenses. Billerica and Hampden County Houses of Correction will serve as comparison groups.

The data will be collected from January 1988 through June 1988. It will be analyzed over the summer of 1988 and the final report will be available in November 1988.

THIRTY YEARS LATER: AN EVALUATION OF THE NORFOLK FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Julie M. Nardone

September 1987 marked the 30th anniversary of the Norfolk Fellowship Program. The Norfolk Fellowship, a non-sectarian community-based volunteer program, was spawned in 1957 by the Chaplain at MCI-Norfolk, Reverend Robert F. Dutton. Over the years, the idea of Fellowship has pollinated to five other correctional facilities: MCI-Cedar Junction, MCI-Lancaster, the Medfield Prison Project, the Northeast Correctional Center, and the Bay State Correctional Center.

Past evaluations of the Fellowship Program have been largely quantitative in nature, relying solely on recidivism rates as a measure of treatment success. The present study will utilize both quantitative and qualitative research methods in an attempt to both evaluate the program and to uncover its functions not expressed through recidivism rates.

500 inmates released between January 1982 and December 1986 will be tracked through DOC record-files and probation checks to determine their recidivism rates. A total of 40 interviews will be conducted with inmates who are currently involved with the program, inmates who either dropped out of the program or were never involved with it, inmates who have served their sentences and are re-integrated into the community and administrators who are familiar with the program. Finally, 18 hours of observations will be conducted at MCI-Walpole, MCI-Norfolk and the Concord Farm. Observations are being conducted to capture the "flavor" of the program. Ensnaring this flavor is essential if a holistic view of the program is to be presented.

The data will be collected from February 1988 through June 1988. The data will be analyzed over the summer of 1988 and the final report will be completed in December of 1988.

WORK IN PRISON AND ITS EFFECTS ON INMATES MORALE AND POST-RELEASE INTEGRATION

Darek Niklas

Presently about 8% of inmates in Massachusetts Department of Correction custody participate in prison industries. On the business side, the prison industries are coping with losses. According to multiple former research the rehabilitative effects of work as mirrored by the recidivism rate should not be expected to be significant. The disciplinary problems of working inmates could be significantly below the level of the general prison population.

The public support for work programs does not depend on specific successes in reducing the costs of increasing rehabilitative effects, but, rather, is diffused and based on the cultural value of work which implies that idleness is wrong and occupational activities are an inalienable right.

This research will test results of previous research concerning the impact of work in prison on discipline and post-release integration. Moreover, it will add a descriptive analysis of work environments and, hopefully, show the contribution of different work settings and programs to the predictions of recidivism and disciplinary problems. Two processes in the system of prison industries are specifically amenable to control by the authorities - organization of the work process; and - selection of inmates for work programs. Inquiry into both is incorporated in this research.

Under the pressure of different policy factors, most eminently overcrowding and the general trend towards privatization, prison industries may become exposed to pressures towards change. This research project should result in establishing an information system which will allow policy oriented current monitoring of the developments in prison industries.

SEX OFFENDERS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION: DESCRIPTION OF THE POPULATION AND IMPLICATIONS FOR TREATMENT

**Linda K. Holt
Lisa Lorant**

A recently completed survey of correctional administrators indicated the general perception that sex offenders are model inmates who do not create management problems, along with a concern that the sex offender population was growing in the Department. Typically, Superintendents estimated the sex offender population to range from 25% to 40% of their institution's population even though statistics indicate that overall, sex offenders comprise only 15% of the DOC population.

The survey identified four potential reasons for the concerns expressed by Superintendents. First, is the apparent lack of programs tailored specifically to incarcerated sex offenders in walled institutions. Second, although they themselves may not represent disciplinary problems, sex offenders, especially child sex offenders, are targets for victimization by other inmates. Third, there are apparent fears over sending sex offenders into the community on work release or furlough. Finally, sex offenses are generally emotionally charged and this is something which may have led to an exaggerated perception of the size of the sex offender population.

The purpose of this research study, therefore, is first to provide a system-wide in-depth description of the sex offender population, including an examination of the number of sex offenders in each institution, both those with a governing and a non-governing sex offense. Secondly, to examine institutional and community-based programs which exist for sex offenders. Finally, to assess the extent to which sex offenders are victimized within institutions by other offenders.

It is anticipated that this research will be based on an extensive literature review, interviews with sex offenders and treatment staff, and statistical analysis of existing data.

A research design for this study will be completed by June 1988, and upon review and revision, the study will begin soon thereafter. The design specifies research goals, objectives, and a timetable for completion.

POPULATION PROJECTIONS PROJECT

Linda K. Holt
Lisa Lorant

In a rapidly expanding and changing correctional system there is a need to enhance the agency's ability to understand the nature of population growth. To this end, the National Institute of Corrections has funded the National Council on Crime and Delinquency to work with the Department of Correction in the development of a computer based model for projecting Correction's and Parole populations. This model will be implemented during 1988 and will give the department the capability to model admissions, paroles, and revocations for a number of separate inmate populations in order to develop a series of ten year projections.

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
REVIEW OF CURRENT RESEARCH-1988

Prepared by:

Michael White
Research Analyst

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS
COLL. C. C.
FEB 15 1989
University of Massachusetts
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MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Michael V. Fair
Commissioner

March 1989

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INTRODUCTION

During 1988, the Research Division of the Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC) conducted several special research projects and produced a number of statistical reports describing the DOC inmate population. This report presents a review of the research that stemmed from these projects and from the annual statistical reports. The abstracts reproduced in this report summarize specific findings from each of the studies and statistical reports cited.

This report is divided into three major sections reflecting the different areas of research conducted by the Research Division in 1988. The first section covers a series of statistical descriptions of the state prison and county facility populations. The second section includes abstracts of findings from special evaluative and descriptive projects completed in 1988. The third section includes abstracts from research in progress in 1988.

The first section of this document consists of abstracts from reports which the Research Division produces annually. The reports in this section present updated information on the status and characteristics of the state and county prison population. The first in this series of reports is a statistical description of the 6,265 residents in DOC facilities as of January 1, 1988. The next report provides a statistical description of the offenders committed by the courts to a Massachusetts county facility (jail or house of correction) during 1987 and presents information on institution committed to, court committed from, month of commitment, offense, sentence length, sentence type, age, sex, race, marital status, education, place of birth and residence. The third report presents a statistical description of individuals committed by the court to county correctional facilities in Massachusetts for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol

(O.U.I.) during 1987, trends in commitment for this offense, and some comparative information on the O.U.I. population and county offenders committed for other offenses.

The fourth statistical report is a description of the individuals committed by the courts to a term of incarceration in the Massachusetts Department of Correction during 1987, including information on the nature of the present offense, personal background characteristics and criminal history of these individuals. The fifth report assesses population change and summarizes all movement of offenders in DOC custody during the calendar year of 1987. The tables in this report reveal the numbers of new court commitments, paroles, returns on parole violation, discharges, escapes, deaths, transfers to other correctional facilities both within and outside the state and temporary releases to hospitals and courts broken down according to institution of admission or release. The sixth and seventh reports present statistical descriptions of offenders released to the street from Massachusetts Correctional Institutions and Massachusetts Pre-Release facilities during 1985 with corresponding recidivism rates. The eighth report is a statistical bulletin on escapes and returns from escape that occurred during 1987 and contains descriptive information on returns and escapes including institution and security level from which the escape occurred, type of escape, current status of the escape, length of time at large, and characteristics of the individual escaping. The ninth report contains an analysis of disciplinary reports issued during 1986. The tenth report contains a statistical description of the number, distribution, and outcomes of furloughs for the year 1987 as well as a trend analysis of furloughs since the inception of the program in 1972.

Information in each of the annual reports is institution-specific; that is, the data are reported by the institution where the inmate is a resident, released from, or admitted to. Consequently, much of the information in each annual report is

available for the entire correctional system as well as individual institutions.

Studies summarized in the second section present findings from special evaluations and descriptions of DOC-sponsored programs and selected prison populations. The first study is a process evaluation of two substance abuse treatment programs offered to inmates at MCI-Cedar Junction: The Program Unit for Substance Abusers, and SPAN, Inc. The two programs are described in terms of their origins, goals, activities, staff, and participant characteristics. The study concludes with a discussion of the results the researchers obtained by monitoring the two programs and with a list of recommendations for program improvements. The second study explores the effects of the Department's community reintegration programs (particularly the furlough program, and pre-release activities) on recidivism rates of offenders released from 1971 to 1985. The results of the statistical analyses performed in this study support the Department's position that participation in pre-release programming and in the furlough program are associated with reduced recidivism. The third study reports the results of a survey administered to Directors of Classification and other classification staff concerning their perceptions of the classification system and particularly of Classification and Program Agreements (CAPA). The fourth study summarized in this section is from an article written by Dr. Daniel LeClair that was published in the December 1988 issue of Federal Probation. This article is based on an evaluation of the Longwood Treatment Center for multiple O.U.I. offenders.

The next section of this report contains brief descriptions of eight research studies that were in progress during 1988. The first study is a process evaluation of the Substance Abuse Program Unit at MCI-Shirley. The second is a recidivism study of multiple O.U.I. offenders released from the Longwood Treatment Center, Western Massachusetts Correctional Alcohol Center and, Billerica House of Correction. The third project is an evaluation of the Norfolk Fellowship Program -

a program where inmates and volunteers from the local community gather to discuss a broad range of issues. Fourth is an evaluation of Massachusetts Correctional Industries which will evaluate the impact of work in prison on discipline and post-release integration. The fifth project is a continuation of the evaluation of the DOC inmate classification system. The next two phases of this project will include a cross-validation where the DOC method of classification is compared with the National Institute of Correction's Model Systems Approach, and an impact evaluation of Classification and Program Agreements (CAPA). The sixth project is a series of research briefs concerned with describing sex offenders committed to the DOC. During 1988, the first research brief in this series, "How Many Sex Offenders Are There? And, Where Are They?" was completed. Subsequent reports will provide further descriptions of this population. The information presented in this series will be useful in the development of special programs for sex offenders. While the first six projects reviewed in this section are evaluations of programs designed for inmates of the Department of Correction, the seventh and eighth projects address programs and activities targeted toward victims and Department staff. The seventh project is a description of the Department's activities that address the concerns of crime victims. The eighth project is a study of the extent of Workers' Compensation leave used by DOC staff at several of the Department's facilities.

In addition to the annual reports, the Research Division also produces quarterly reports on the status of prison overcrowding, and monthly statistical reports on admissions to and releases from the Department of Correction. Information on participation in selected inmate programs (furloughs, state hospital, education release, and work release) are included in the monthly statistical reports as well.

Copies of the full reports and studies may be obtained by writing to:

**Massachusetts Department of Correction
Research Division -22nd Floor
100 Cambridge Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02202**

ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORTS

A STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION OF
RESIDENTS OF MASSACHUSETTS CORRECTIONAL
INSTITUTIONS ON JANUARY 1, 1988

#328

May 1988

Lisa Lorant

This report presents a statistical description of the 6,265 individuals in the custody of the Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC) on January 1, 1988. The report contains information on present offense and sentence, personal background characteristics, criminal history, and furlough program participation. The information is presented for the DOC population as a whole and for each facility separately. Changes in the population over the last five years are also given. Some of the highlights of the information presented in this report are:

- The 6,265 inmates in the DOC represent an increase of 11 percent over 1987 and an increase of 44 percent over 1983.
- Eleven percent were in maximum security facilities, 62 percent in medium security, 5 percent in minimum security, 15 percent in minimum/pre-release security, and 7 percent in pre-release security.
- Fifty-two percent of the population were incarcerated for an offense against the person, 14 percent for sex offenses, 15 percent for property offenses, 14 percent for drug offenses, and 5 percent for other offenses.
- There were 730 lifers in the DOC, including 306 first-degree lifers and 424 second-degree lifers.
- The median age of the population was 30 years.
- Forty-nine percent were serving their first adult incarceration and 51 percent had a previous incarceration as an adult.

COURT COMMITMENTS TO
MASSACHUSETTS COUNTY FACILITIES
DURING 1987

#325

May 1988

Linda K. Holt
Alicia McCarthy

This report provides a statistical description of the 10,818 offenders committed by the courts to Massachusetts county facilities (jail or house of correction) during 1987. The report presents information on institution committed to, court committed from, month of commitment, offense, sentence length, sentence type, age, sex, race, marital status, education, place of birth and residence.

Some highlights of the statistics presented in this report are:

- In 1987 there were 10,818 commitments to county facilities. This represents an increase of 3 percent over the number of commitments in 1986.
- In terms of general categories of offenses, 11 percent were committed for offenses against the person, 2 percent for sex offenses, 28 percent for property offenses, 9 percent for drug offenses, 24 percent for Operating Under the Influence (O.U.I.), and 25 percent for all other offenses.
- Specifically, the most common offenses for which offenders were committed were O.U.I. (24 percent), motor vehicle violations (13 percent), and burglary (9 percent).
- The median sentence length was three months. Twelve percent were committed in lieu of payment of a fine. One percent were serving weekend sentences.
- The median age of offenders committed to county facilities was 26 years.
- Seventy-six percent of the offenders were white, 16 percent were black and 8 percent were Hispanic.
- The median educational level was 12th grade.
- Seventy percent of the offenders were single, 17 percent were married and 13 percent were separated, divorced or widowed.
- Seventy percent were born in Massachusetts, 18 percent were born in other states, 8 percent were born in U.S. territories and 4 percent were foreign-born.

1987 COURT COMMITMENTS TO
MASSACHUSETTS COUNTY FACILITIES
FOR OPERATING UNDER THE INFLUENCE
OF ALCOHOL

#326

June 1988

Linda K. Holt
Alicia McCarthy

This report presents a statistical description of individuals committed by the courts to county correctional facilities in Massachusetts for Operating Under the Influence of Alcohol (O.U.I.) during 1987. This report also presents some information on trends in commitments for this offense and some comparative information on the O.U.I. population and county offenders committed for other offenses. Some highlights of the information contained in this report are:

- In 1987, there were 2,607 commitments for O.U.I. in Massachusetts county facilities. This is a decrease of 3 percent or 80 from the 2,687 commitments for O.U.I. in 1986.
- The median sentence length for O.U.I. commitments was 3 months. This is an increase from the median sentence length of 1986 commitments (2 months), and a large increase from the median sentence length of those committed in 1983 (10 days).
- The 2,607 commitments for O.U.I. represent 24 percent of all offenders committed to the counties in 1987. This is a decrease from 1986, when 26 percent of all commitments were for O.U.I.
- Commitments for O.U.I. varied by county. Commitments ranged from ten percent of commitments in Suffolk County to 38 percent of all commitments in Norfolk County.
- The typical offender committed for O.U.I. was white, 29 years old, male, single and a high school graduate.

1987 COURT COMMITMENTS TO THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

#329

June 1988

Linda K. Holt

This report is a statistical description of the 2,848 individuals committed by the courts to a term of incarceration in the Massachusetts Department of Correction during the year 1987. The tables in this report contain information on the nature of present offense, personal background characteristics and criminal history of these individuals. Some highlights of the statistics presented in this report are:

- There was a 12 percent increase in the number of commitments during the year, from 2,533 in 1986 to 2,848 in 1987. The 2,848 commitments in 1987 represent the highest level of commitments in DOC history.
- There were 1,250 commitments to Cedar Junction (21 percent higher than 1986), 701 commitments to Concord (6 percent higher than 1986), and 897 commitments to Framingham (7 percent higher than 1986).
- Males are committed to Cedar Junction or Concord while females are committed to Framingham. Overall, there was a 15 percent increase in male commitments and a 7 percent increase in female commitments from 1986 to 1987.
- The median minimum sentence for Cedar Junction commitments was five years; the median maximum sentence for Concord commitments was eight years; and the median maximum sentence for Framingham commitments was less than 1 year. Sentence lengths for new court commitments were similar in 1986 and 1987.
- Violent offenses (person and sex) accounted for 52 percent of all male commitments and 10 percent of all female commitments. Non-violent offenses (property, drug and "other") represented 90 percent of all female commitments and 48 percent of all male commitments. From 1986 to 1987 there were increases in commitments for drug offenses (up 42 percent), property offenses (up 12 percent), person offenses (up 7 percent), and sex offenses (up 1 percent). There were decreases in commitments for other offenses (down 6 percent).
- The median age at commitment was 27 years.

- Fifty-eight percent of the commitment population were white (including white Hispanics); 62 percent were single; 10 percent had been in the military; 43 percent came from the Boston SMSA; most had limited work experience concentrated in the areas of manual labor and services; the median educational level was twelfth grade; and, 41 percent had a self-reported history of drug use.
- Fifty-seven percent were serving their first adult incarceration. The median age at first court appearance was eighteen.

POPULATION MOVEMENTS IN THE
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION,
1987

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#324

March 1988

Linda K. Holt

This report summarizes the movement of offenders in the custody of the DOC during 1987. While the focus of the analysis is on calendar year 1987, trends in population movement over the period 1982 to 1987 are also discussed, particularly in relation to population growth during the period.

Some of the highlights of the information presented in this report include:

- There were 16,742 admissions and 16,133 releases of all types to DOC facilities during 1987.
- The continued pattern of admissions surpassing releases was related to population growth in the agency.
- The major sources of new offenders entering the DOC include: commitments (N=2,852), parole/probation violators (N=1,001), and county transfers (N=443).
- The major sources of offenders leaving the DOC include: paroles to street (N=1,729), discharges to street (N=1,106), and expirations of sentence to street (N=269).

STATISTICAL TABLES DESCRIBING THE BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS AND
RECIDIVISM RATES FOR RELEASES FROM MASSACHUSETTS
CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS
DURING 1985

#321

January 1988

Lisa Lorant

and

STATISTICAL TABLES DESCRIBING THE BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS AND
RECIDIVISM RATES FROM MASSACHUSETTS
PRE-RELEASE FACILITIES DURING 1985

#322

January 1988

Lisa Lorant

These two reports present information on recidivism rates of offenders released from Massachusetts Correctional Institutions and Pre-Release Centers during 1985. In addition to providing recidivism rates, the tables in these two reports present statistical descriptions of the releasees as well. Some highlights from these two reports include the following:

- The recidivism rate in 1985 was 27%. This is higher than the rates from 1984 (25%) and 1983 (21%).
- The increase in recidivism rates occurred at the same time that the number of releases increased, from 1,726 in 1983; to 1,888 in 1984; and 1,979 in 1985.
- The recidivism rate varied by security level of the institution from which the offender was released: 36% for maximum, 32% for medium, 28% for minimum, 19% for minimum/pre-release, 19% for state pre-release and 21% for contract pre-release.
- From 1984 to 1985 the recidivism rate for releases from maximum or medium security institutions stayed the same at 32%, while the recidivism rate for releases from lower security facilities increased from 16% in 1984 to 20% in 1985.
- The recidivism rate for males was 26%, an increase from the 1984 figure of 24% and the rate for females was 30% an increase from last year's figure of 29%.
- Among males, the recidivism rate was 27% for those serving a Walpole sentence (compared to 24% for 1984) and 27% for those serving a Concord sentence (compared to 24% for 1984).

- Recidivists were returned for a variety of reasons: 19% for technical parole violations, 48% for a parole violation involving a new arrest, and 32% for re-incarceration on a new offense.
- Offenders released by parole had a higher recidivism rate (29%) than those who were discharged (21%).
- For males, those committed for property offenses had the highest recidivism rate (33%); for females, those committed for "other" offenses had the highest recidivism rate (34%).
- The recidivism rate for those released with no prior adult incarcerations was lower (21%) than for those with a history of one (27%) or more than one (36%) prior adult incarcerations.
- The recidivism rate for offenders with no furloughs prior to release was 31% and the recidivism rate for individuals with furloughs prior to release was 16%.

**STATISTICAL BULLETIN ON ESCAPES FOR 1987:
A PROFILE OF ESCAPES AND RETURNS FROM ESCAPE
DURING 1987 AND INDIVIDUALS ON ESCAPE STATUS
ON DECEMBER 31, 1987.**

#331

June 1988

Linda K. Holt

This statistical bulletin presents information on escapes and returns from escape that occurred during 1987. The bulletin contains descriptions of the escapes and returns including: institution and security level from which the escape occurred; type of escape; current status of the escape; length of time at large; and characteristics of the individuals escaping. Some highlights of the information contained in this report are:

- During 1987 there were 241 escapes and 258 returns from escape, a decrease of 65 escapes and 47 returns from the previous year.
- The escape rate in 1987 was 2.4 per 100. The escape rate is the lowest of the last eleven years.
- Almost all escapes occur from lower security facilities and are walk-aways from those facilities or failures to return from release programs such as furloughs or work release. In 1987 there were only 13 escapes from secure custody (including transportation) and many secure facilities had no escapes at all.
- Most escapes are resolved quickly. Sixty percent of the escapes were returned within one week of escape. Eighty-eight percent of all 1987 escapees were returned to the DOC or known to be in the custody of another correctional agency at the end of the year.
- At the end of the year there were 87 individuals at large from the DOC, including 30 who escaped in 1987.

DISCIPLINARY REPORTS ISSUED IN THE
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION,
1986

#332

July 1988

Linda K. Holt
Ramon V. Raagas

During 1986 there were 20,321 disciplinary reports issued involving 4,457 different individuals. This bulletin contains a statistical description of these disciplinary reports including: reporting institution, offense, finding, sanction and characteristics of the offenders incurring the reports. Some highlights of the findings in this bulletin are:

- There were 20,321 disciplinary reports issued in 1986. This represents an increase of 6 percent (N=1200) over the 19,121 disciplinary reports written in 1985.
- The number of disciplinary reports written in 1986 ranged from 31 at Medfield to 9,577 at Cedar Junction. Two facilities (Cedar Junction and Norfolk) accounted for 61 percent of all reports.
- Over half of the individuals (52 percent) in the DOC during 1986 incurred one or more disciplinary reports. Among the 4,457 offenders who received at least one disciplinary report, the number of disciplinary reports incurred ranged from one to 93 and the median for this group was two.
- Seventy-five percent of the disciplinary reports were classified as major, 25 percent as minor, and less than one percent were referred to the District Attorney.
- Of the 31 offenses involved in disciplinary reports, the three most frequently cited were: number 2, violating rules; number 1, disobeying, lying or insolence; and number 8, disrupting order.
- Sixty-five percent of all disciplinary reports resulted in a guilty finding.
- The most common sanctions imposed were isolation time, extra work, room restriction, and loss of privileges.
- Eighty-seven percent of all sanctions were invoked and 13 percent were suspended.
- Eight percent of all disciplinary report findings were appealed.

1987 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT OF THE FURLOUGH PROGRAM

#334

December 1988

Lisa Lorant
John Sherwood

The first furlough was taken by an inmate of the Massachusetts Department of Correction on November 6, 1972. Since the inception of the program until December 31, 1987, a total of 121,133 furloughs have been granted to 10,835 individuals. There have been 650 escapes since the inception of the program, yielding an overall escape rate per furlough of 0.5 percent.

- From January 1, 1987 to December 31, 1987, a total of 5,859 furloughs were granted to 1,161 individuals. This is a decrease of 34 percent from the 8,896 furloughs granted during 1986; and a decrease of 29 percent from the 1,645 individuals furloughed during 1986.
- The median number of furloughs per furloughed offender for 1987 was three. This is lower than the 1986 median of four furloughs per furloughed offender.
- Of the furloughs taken, 96 percent were unescorted furloughs and 4 percent were escorted or emergency furloughs.
- The median number of hours of leave per furlough during 1987 was 19 hours. The median number of hours of leave per furlough during 1986 was 24 hours.
- There were 5 escapes from furlough during 1987, resulting in an escape rate per furlough of 0.1 percent.
- The number of individuals released from the Department of Correction who have participated in the furlough program has steadily declined over the years. During 1987, 27 percent of the males, and 5 percent of the females released had one or more furloughs.
- More than half (56 percent) of the furloughs were taken by offenders with no prior adult incarcerations.
- During 1987, 48 percent of all furloughs were from pre-release facilities; 29 percent were from mixed minimum/pre-release facilities; 19 percent were from minimum security facilities; and 4 percent were from maximum or medium security institutions.

EVALUATIVE AND DESCRIPTIVE STUDIES

EVALUATION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE
PROGRAMMING AT MCI-CEDAR JUNCTION, VOLUME 1:

PROCESS EVALUATION
OF THE PROGRAM UNIT FOR SUBSTANCE
ABUSERS AND SPAN, INC.

#327

June 1988

Ann Marie Rocheleau,
Michael W. Forcier, Ph.D.

Incarcerated offenders have high rates of alcohol and drug abuse which have been shown to be related to criminal behavior. In recognition of this, the Massachusetts Department of Correction implemented the Program Unit for Substance Abusers at MCI-Cedar Junction, the state's maximum security facility. A cellblock was designated for those inmates who volunteered to enter the program. Those inmates selected to reside in the unit must agree to a classification contract which outlines program requirements and generally designates transfer to a medium security facility after a specified period of time. Program requirements include work, educational programming, substance abuse treatment, and urinalysis. In addition to the Program Unit, another program, SPAN, Inc., offers treatment groups to inmates who are approaching release and is run by a private, non-profit agency that is contracted by the Department of Correction.

This report presents the results of a process evaluation conducted on the Program Unit and SPAN in terms of their origins, goals, activities, staff, and participant characteristics. Results from an impact evaluation of the Program Unit focusing on impacts on the institutional alcohol and drug use behavior of inmates are presented in a separate report.

Program Unit and SPAN participants were similar in terms of social demographics (race, age, and marital status) although Program Unit participants were slightly more educated. Although SPAN participants had slightly more serious criminal histories than Program Unit participants, their present offenses were similar with the majority of both groups incarcerated for offenses against the person.

SPAN participants had more extensive and serious substance abuse histories than Program Unit participants as indicated by prior drug and/or alcohol charges. SPAN participants were also significantly more involved in institutional substance abuse than Program Unit participants as indicated by substance abuse-related disciplinary reports, positive urinalysis tests, reclassifications for substance abuse, and other indicators. At the same time, more SPAN participants than Program Unit participants had been involved in substance abuse programming both prior to and during their incarceration.

Program Unit participants had a longer average length of participation than SPAN participants. This is likely attributable to the fact that SPAN has no specified length of program participation and is aimed at those nearing release whereas the Program Unit has a specified period of participation and is aimed at inmates in the early to middle stages of their incarceration. The level of attendance at program sessions was found to be stable for both groups.

Five major conclusions arose from the process evaluation. First, program implementation obstacles led to program misconceptions. Second, there was evidence of inadequate staffing levels and poor treatment-client match. Third, flawed program recruitment criteria resulted in a population with less severe substance abuse histories and problems entering the Program Unit. Fourth, there was a low rate of program completion and retention in the Program Unit. Finally, prison overcrowding had effects on program retention.

In response to these conclusions, the following recommendations are offered. First, there needs to be a clarification of the Program Unit mission. Second, there is a need to increase the number and type of treatment staff assigned to the Program Unit. Third, substance abuse assessment and diagnosis should be conducted on all offenders entering the Department of Correction. Fourth, efforts should be undertaken to increase rates of program retention and completion. Finally, transfer decisions should be more closely tied to treatment needs.

**THE EFFECT OF COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION ON RATES
OF RECIDIVISM: A STATISTICAL OVERVIEW OF
DATA FOR THE YEARS 1971 THROUGH 1985**

330

July 1988

Daniel P. LeClair, Ph.D.

The Research Division of the Massachusetts Department of Correction routinely collects and publishes on an annual basis data on rates of recidivism. In these reports a series of descriptive variables on all individuals released from Massachusetts Correctional Institutions is correlated with rates of recidivism. Comparisons between current findings and trends discerned in prior studies are made. Additionally, comparisons between specific correctional institutions of varying security levels and comparisons between varying modes of correctional programming are also made. The state correctional institutions include maximum, medium and minimum security facilities as well as state run prerelease centers and sub-contracted privately operated halfway houses. From these studies data are currently available for the releasee cohorts for the years 1971 through 1985. This report attempts to draw together data generated from the recidivism studies of the past 15 years and to present a summary statistical overview of the findings.

The annual statistical monitoring of recidivism data since the year 1971 has led to the detection of a number of significant trends occurring within the Massachusetts correctional system. Dominant among these trends was the occurrence of a systematic reduction in the recidivism rates from 1971 through to 1978. For example, in the year 1971 the recidivism rate for the combined population of state prison releases was 25%; in 1973 it had dropped to 19%; and in 1976 it had dropped to 16%. By 1977, the recidivism rate was 15%. Later data, however, revealed that a reversal had occurred in this historical trend. The 1979 and 1980 releasee populations represented the first statistically significant increase in recidivism rates in a nine year period. However, 1981 through 1983 data have shown a modest but consistent drop in recidivism rates.

A second major trend concerned the home furlough program in the Massachusetts correctional system, a program begun in and expanded subsequent to the year 1971. Recidivism studies demonstrated that inmate participation in the furlough program may be an important variable in accounting for the systematic reduction in recidivism rates occurring in Massachusetts. The data revealed that those individuals who had experienced a furlough prior to release from prison had significantly lower rates of recidivism than did individuals who had not experienced a furlough prior to release. When selection factors were controlled, the relationship remained positive. This trend continued in a consistent pattern for the eleven successive years for which data were available.

Recidivism studies have also revealed that participation in prerelease programs prior to community release leads to reduced rates of recidivism. Again, when selection factors were controlled the relationship remained constant.

A final documented trend that has emerged from the recidivism studies focused on the process of graduated movement among institutions in descending level of security and size. Analyses revealed that individuals released from prison directly from medium or minimum security institutions (including prerelease centers and halfway houses) had significantly lower rates of recidivism than did individuals released directly from a maximum security institution. Again, this relationship held even when selection factors were controlled.

When follow-up periods were extended from one to two and then to five years, the above findings with respect to furloughs, prerelease centers, and security level of releasing institution remained constant.

The major findings of the research were collectively interpreted as tentative evidence of a positive effect of the reintegrative community based correctional programming. That is, correctional programs operating in the Massachusetts system which are geared to maintain, to establish, or to reestablish general societal links such as family, economic, political, and social roles may be associated with a subsequent reduction in recidivism. Also associated with the reduction in recidivism is the graduated societal reintroduction of the offender. This is accomplished through a series of movements among institutions in descending levels of security and size along with the awarding of increased increments of community contacts through participation in furloughs, education release, and work release programs.

The above conclusions hold through the documented trend of increased recidivism and the more recent drop in the rates. Despite the fluctuations in overall recidivism, participation in reintegration programs remains associated with lower rates of recidivism.

SURVEY OF DOC STAFF PERCEPTIONS OF THE INMATE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

333

August 1988

Michael W. Forcier, Ph.D.

Since 1972, the Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC) has experimented with different inmate classification systems. In 1985, the DOC implemented a new system built around a concept called "Classification and Program Agreements" or CAPA. The CAPA is a voluntary program agreement offered to eligible and suitable inmates during a classification hearing where the DOC and inmate agree to a scheduled reduction in security contingent upon positive institutional adjustment and program participation for the duration of the agreement.

In September 1987, the DOC Research Division began a three phase evaluation study of the classification system. Phase 1, Survey of DOC Staff, consisted of on-site observations of the classification process at MCI-Concord and interviews system-wide with classification staff in order to obtain their perceptions of the system. Phase 2, Validation of the DOC Classification System, will address whether the items used in initial and subsequent classification are predictive of inmate behavior. Phase 3 of the study will consist of an impact evaluation of CAPA specifically.

This report presents the results of Phase 1. Sixty respondents involved with inmate classification were interviewed in order to obtain their perceptions of the system's processes, strengths, weaknesses, and needed changes. A ten item, semi-structured interview schedule was developed and administered to correction counselors, supervising correctional counselors, program treatment staff, Unit Managers, Directors of Classification, Directors of Treatment and Deputy Superintendents.

Six major problems were identified with the current classification system. These were: too rapid movement of inmates; overcrowding wreaks havoc with classification; inconsistency in the classification process; too much paperwork and too few staff; need for modification of the Standard Movement Chronology; and, a flawed CAPA process at MCI-Concord.

Despite calls for its modification in various directions, a majority of survey respondents believe that the Standard Movement Chronology is an objective and consistent method for placing inmates in the appropriate security level.

The majority of survey respondents felt that CAPA was an effective mechanism for forecasting and managing bed space needs at each security level although a sizable minority said that it did not accomplish this because of overcrowding.

Although a majority felt that CAPA did help to reduce disciplinary reports, many noted it was dependent on several factors. Similarly, although a large majority of survey respondents stated that CAPA has made inmates more responsible in terms of institutional adjustment, program participation and completion, this was also dependent on several factors.

Survey results indicate that the large majority of staff have no knowledge as to whether or not inmates comply with their classification agreements when they leave an institution. Rather classification staff at each institution operate in their "own worlds" with little or no feedback on the classification agreements they develop and negotiate.

The majority of survey respondents prefer a subjective classification system which is what they perceive the current system to be, although a sizable minority would like to see a combined subjective and objective point-based system. Few prefer an exclusively objective, point based-system.

Major changes or improvements suggested for the classification system included the following: addition of bed space to improve classification flexibility; additional staff, reduced case loads, and a reduction in paperwork; more timely sign-offs on classification boards from Central Office; improved monitoring of CAPA compliance; more training; and, better organization of Central Office records.

The majority of survey respondents believe that inmates do understand CAPA and are committed to the agreement. However, a sizeable number questioned the level of commitment and stated that inmates only see the transfer schedule and sign to get a move.

A number of reasons were cited by respondents as to why inmates choose not to sign a CAPA including: inmate cynicism about CAPA when the DOC does not honor its part of the agreement; inmate laziness, an unwillingness to get programmatically involved, and denial of program needs; distrust of the Department of Correction; and a perception by inmates that they can "cut a better deal" without CAPA and will move quicker especially in light of overcrowding.

The overall picture which emerges from this survey of DOC classification staff is that of a classification system beset by a number of problems but yet at the same time, one with which staff are fairly satisfied and comfortable. Many of the problems with the classification system identified by survey respondents either were or could be attributed to overcrowding leading to the frequently-heard statement that the system "works in theory but not in practice because of overcrowding." Ironically, survey respondents frequently complained about inconsistency in classification decision-making, yet argued for the preservation of those principles which classification experts say most contribute to inconsistency, namely, subjectivity and discretion.

THE USE OF PRISON CONFINEMENT IN THE TREATMENT OF DRUNKEN DRIVERS

#FPI

December 1988

Daniel P. LeClair, Ph.D.

In March 1985, the Massachusetts Department of Correction opened Longwood Treatment Center, the state's first minimum security prison designed exclusively to detain and provide alcoholism education and treatment to multiple drunken driving offenders. A process evaluation of the program revealed that the program was implemented as planned and served the intended target population. Preliminary outcome measures revealed that 6% of program participants were returned to prison within one year of release, compared to a department-wide recidivism rate of 25% and to a rate of 19% for other low security institutions similar to Longwood. Issues raised from the evaluation resulted in recommendations that aftercare services be strengthened, counseling and correction staffs be restructured, and operating costs be reevaluated. The findings suggest that the program was effective in reducing recidivism among repeat drunk drivers and in impacting on offenders' alcoholic behaviors.

This article is a summary of a lengthy report recently completed by the Research Division of the Massachusetts Department of Correction: "The Use of Prison Confinement for the Treatment of Multiple Drunken Driver Offenders: An Evaluation of the Longwood Treatment Center" by D. LeClair, L. Felici, and E. Klotzbier, June 1987 (Publication number 311).

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

EVALUATION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM UNIT AT MCI-SHIRLEY

Michael W. Forcier, Ph.D.

Incarcerated offenders have been found to have histories and rates of alcohol and drug abuse substantially greater than the general population. The relationship between substance abuse and criminality has come under increased attention as research has revealed that one third to one half of incarcerated offenders reported that they were under the influence of an illegal drug or had been drunk before they committed the crime for which they were incarcerated.

At MCI-Shirley, a minimum security level facility, in 1987 approximately 245 or 63% of the 389 inmates had a present offense or criminal history involving drugs and/or alcohol. Moreover, this has apparently carried over into the institution as 34% (174) of the 507 disciplinary reports written at Shirley in 1985 were for offenses involving alcohol/drugs, misuse of medication, or refusing a drug test.

Recognizing the seriousness of the problem, MCI-Shirley established in 1988 a 39-bed Substance Abuse Program Unit based on a therapeutic community model for housing and treating inmates with substance abuse problems.

The Research Division will undertake a process evaluation of this Program Unit in order to examine if the program is implemented as intended, targets the substance abusing population, and provides the designated services. Part of this evaluation will consist of the administration of a program intake screening and assessment form in order to determine which of the 245 inmates with alcohol and/or drug problems should be housed in this unit. This form will obtain information on inmate demographic characteristics, criminal history, alcohol and drug use behavior, and substance abuse treatment history.

This study will begin in January 1989 and is scheduled for completion in December 1989.

ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION FOR MULTIPLE OUI OFFENDERS: ARE THEY SUCCESSFUL?

Julie M. Nardone

Emerging in the wake of more stringent Massachusetts drunk-driving controls has been a new breed of correctional facility -- the correctional alcohol treatment center. The correctional alcohol treatment center merges correctional measures with alcohol treatment in the hopes of alleviating the drinking-driver's problem and deterring him or her from committing further acts of drunk driving.

At present, three such facilities exist in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts: the state-run Longwood Treatment Center in Jamaica Plain, the county-run Western Massachusetts Correctional Alcohol Center in Springfield and the county-run Eastern Massachusetts Correctional Alcohol Center in New Bedford.

Since both the Longwood Treatment Center and the Western Massachusetts Correctional Alcohol Center are still in an experimental stage, a post-program evaluation will be conducted in order to assess their effectiveness. This follow-up evaluation will focus on recidivism rates and post-release rearrest for OUI and non-OUI related offenses. The Billerica House of Correction will serve as a comparison group.

The final report will be available in April 1989.

THIRTY YEARS LATER: AN EVALUATION OF THE NORFOLK FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Julie M. Nardone

September 1987 marked the 30th anniversary of the Norfolk Fellowship program. The Norfolk Fellowship, a non-sectarian community-based volunteer program, was established in 1957 by the Chaplain at MCI Norfolk, Reverend Robert F. Dutton. Over the years, the Fellowship program has spread to five other correctional facilities: MCI-Cedar Junction, MCI-Lancaster, the Medfield Prison Project, the Northeastern Correctional Center, and the Bay State Correctional Center.

Past evaluations of the Fellowship Program have been largely quantitative in nature, relying solely on recidivism rates as a measure of treatment success. The present study will utilize both quantitative and qualitative research techniques. Quantitative techniques will be used in order to compare the recidivism behavior of Fellowship participants with the recidivism behavior of the overall population of inmates released from the DOC. The data for this aspect of the study will be obtained from DOC record files and probation checks on Fellowship participants released between December 1983 and December 1986.

Qualitative research methods will be used in order to identify purposes served by the Fellowship program besides those which would impact on recidivism rates of participants. Through the use of qualitative methods the researcher will be able to examine the process of the Fellowship program.

The qualitative data will be obtained from several sources, including interviews with 20 former Fellowship participants and 5 former Fellowship volunteers, observations of Fellowship meetings at MCI-Cedar Junction, MCI-Norfolk, and Northeastern Correctional Center, and observations from the annual Fellowship conference.

The recidivism data will be collected in April and May 1989. The data will be analyzed in June 1989 and the final report will be completed during the summer of 1989.

WORK IN PRISON AND ITS EFFECTS ON INMATES' MORALE AND POST-RELEASE INTEGRATION

Darek Niklas, Ph.D.

Presently about 8% of inmates in Massachusetts Department of Correction custody participate in prison industries. This research will evaluate the impact of work in prison on discipline and post-release integration. Moreover, it will add a descriptive analysis of work environments and show the contribution of different work settings and programs to the predictions of recidivism and disciplinary problems. Two processes in the system of prison industries are specifically amenable to control by the authorities -organization of the work process; and -selection of inmates for work programs. Inquiry into both is incorporated in this research.

Under the pressure of different policy factors, most eminently overcrowding and the general trend towards privatization, prison industries may become exposed to pressures towards change. This research project will result in establishing an information system which will allow policy oriented current monitoring of the developments in prison industries.

EVALUATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM: PHASES 2 AND 3

Michael W. Forcier, Ph.D.

Since 1972, the Massachusetts Department of Correction has experimented with different inmate classification systems. Most recently, the DOC implemented a new system built around a concept called "Classification and Program Agreements" or CAPA. The CAPA is a voluntary program agreement offered to some inmates during a classification hearing when the DOC and inmate agree to a scheduled reduction in security levels according to a "standard movement chronology" contingent upon positive institutional adjustment and program participation for the duration of the agreement.

The primary objective of the present study is to evaluate the overall classification system and CAPA specifically. The present study consists of three phases. Phase 1, completed in 1988, was a Survey of DOC Staff Perceptions of the Inmate Classification System. Phase 2 is a comparative cross-validation study of the DOC system compared to the National Institute of Correction's Model Systems Approach to classification. Phase 3 will examine the impacts of CAPA by comparing the institutional adjustment and program participation of inmates who have a CAPA with those who are not eligible/suitable for a CAPA and those who choose not to participate in CAPA.

The study is scheduled to begin in January 1989 and is scheduled for completion in December 1989.

**SEX OFFENDERS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION:
DESCRIPTION OF THE POPULATION AND IMPLICATIONS
FOR TREATMENT**

**Linda K. Holt
Lisa Lorant**

During 1988, the Research Division continued progress on a six part series of research briefs devoted toward describing the Department of Correction's sex offender population. Highlights from the first research brief in this series, "How Many Sex Offenders Are There? And, Where Are They?" include the following:

- On January 1, 1988, the DOC had a population of 1012 sex offenders, representing 16.2% of the total population.
- 42.4% of the sex offenders in DOC custody are incarcerated as a result of at least one offense involving a minor.
- The number of sex offenders has tripled over the last ten years, and the proportion of sex offenders has increased from 12.5% of the DOC population in 1978 to 16.2% of the DOC population in 1988.
- The proportion of sex offenders whose victims were minors has increased from 26.4% in 1978 to 42.4% in 1988.

The topics of the five forthcoming research briefs in this series are

Historical and Legal Perspectives on the Sex Offender Population.

Sentencing Patterns Among Sex Offenders

Comparative Analysis of Rapists, Child Molesters, Other Violent Offenders, and Non-Violent Offenders

Descriptive Analysis of Sex Offenders: The Offense and The Offenders

Recidivism Rates of the Sex Offender Population

Progress on this series will be continued throughout 1989.

VICTIM SERVICES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION: A DESCRIPTION OF CLIENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Michael White

Before the mid 1970s, the scope of activities performed by criminal justice agencies focused almost exclusively on criminal offenders with barely any attention at all devoted to addressing the needs of crime victims. It has been only in the past 15 years that this has begun to change as a result of the growth of victim advocacy groups and the passage of legislation which has afforded certain rights to crime victims, witnesses and the family members of crime victims. In Massachusetts, these rights were incorporated as the Victim Bill of Rights in 1984 (Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 258B). Although most of the items included in this legislation address services which the District Attorneys' offices are required to provide to victims and witnesses while a case is being investigated and tried, one item included in this legislation is especially relevant to the Department of Correction. This item provides victims with the opportunity to request to be notified of the convicted offender's temporary, provisional, or final release from custody, and when necessary, the offender's escape from custody. Actually, the Department had been providing this service to victims upon request, under the authority of the laws covering Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) (MGL, Ch.6, Section 172) several years before the Victim Bill of Rights was enacted. Passage of the Victim Bill of Rights led to greater publicity about the availability of this service and this ultimately led to a dramatic increase in certifications for CORI authorizations during the past 5 years.

The two objectives of this study are to describe the CORI notification process carried out by institutional staff, and to describe the operations of the recently created Victim Services Unit located in the DOC's Central Office. The program descriptions will include information concerning the origins, structure, goals, and implementation of each program. Demographic profiles of the clients who receive the programs' services and of the offenders who are the subjects of the clients' petitions will be included in the report.

This study is scheduled for completion in November 1989.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION USAGE BY DOC CORRECTION OFFICERS

Michael White

This report will monitor three measures of workers' compensation usage by correction officers at 10 DOC facilities for the period of November 1, 1986 - February 28, 1989. Three measures will be monitored:

1. The number of correction officers receiving indemnity payments during each month,
2. The total dollar cost of all indemnity payments to correction officers receiving workers' compensation during each month, and
3. The number of correction officer days lost due to workers' compensation leave for each month.

The project is scheduled for completion in December 1989.

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
REVIEW OF CURRENT RESEARCH
1989

Prepared by:

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INTRODUCTION

During 1989, the Research Division of the Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC) conducted several special research projects and produced a number of statistical reports describing the DOC inmate population. This report presents a review of the research that stemmed from these projects and from the annual statistical reports. The abstracts reproduced in this report summarize specific findings from each of the studies and statistical reports cited.

This report is divided into three major sections reflecting the different areas of research conducted by the Research Division in 1989. The first section covers a series of statistical descriptions of the state prison population. The second section includes abstracts of findings from special evaluative and descriptive projects completed in 1989. The third section includes abstracts from research in progress during 1989.

The first section of this document consists of abstracts from reports which the Research Division produces annually. The reports in this section present updated information on the status and characteristics of the state prison population. The first in this series of reports is a statistical description of the 6,757 residents in DOC facilities as of January 1, 1989. The next report provides a statistical description of the individuals committed by the courts to a term of incarceration in the Massachusetts Department of Correction during 1988, including information on the nature of the present offense, personal background characteristics and criminal history of these individuals. The third report assesses population change and summarizes all movement of offenders in DOC custody during the calendar year of 1988. The tables in this report reveal the numbers of new court commitments, paroles, returns on parole violation, discharges, escapes,

deaths, transfers to other correctional facilities both within and outside the state and temporary releases to hospitals and courts that occurred during the year. The fourth report presents a statistical description of the 3,034 releases to the street from Massachusetts correctional facilities during 1987. Information on trends in selected characteristics of offenders released from 1983 to 1987 is included in this report as well. The fifth and sixth reports present recidivism rates for releases to the street from Massachusetts Correctional Institutions and Massachusetts Pre-Release facilities during 1986. These reports included statistical information on release variables, nature of present offense, personal background characteristics, criminal history, and furlough participation as well. The seventh report contains a statistical description of the number, distribution, and outcomes of furloughs for the year 1988 as well as a trend analysis of furloughs since the inception of the program in 1972.

Information in each of the annual reports is institution-specific; that is, the data are reported by the institution where the inmate is a resident, released from, or admitted to. Consequently, much of the information in each annual report is available for individual institutions as well as for the entire correctional system.

Studies summarized in the second section present findings from special evaluations and descriptions of DOC-sponsored programs and selected prison populations. The first study, Testing the Implementation of a Point-Based Classification System, compares the initial classification decisions of 180 inmates classified at MCI-Concord and MCI-Cedar Junction with the classification decisions reached by "reclassifying" these inmates using National Institute of Corrections (NIC) criteria. In response to these findings the study concludes with a recommendation for modifications to the current classification system.

The second study presents results from an impact evaluation of the Program Unit for Substance Abusers at MCI-Cedar Junction. This study utilizes a non-

equivalent control group design in order to assess long-term abstinence of Program Unit completers compared to three other groups of inmates. Three variables were used to measure the incidence of substance abuse before and after the treatment interval: disciplinary reports related to substance abuse, positive urinalysis results, and transfers or reclassifications for known drug abuse. The results do not support the assertion that participation in the Substance Abuse Unit ensures reduced substance abuse activity or clear improvement in institutional behavior. The study concludes with a summary of the major findings and recommendations concerning the assessment of treatment impacts, the unit screening process, use of bed space, and program incentives and requirements.

The third study reports the results of an impact evaluation of two correctional alcohol treatment facilities: the Longwood Treatment Center in Boston, and the Western Massachusetts Correctional Alcohol Center in Springfield. The Middlesex County Jail and House of Correction in Billerica was used as a comparison (non-treatment) site. Recidivism rates and rearrest rates for 12 month, 18 month, and 24 month follow-up periods were used in order to assess treatment impact. For each post-release follow-up period, Longwood Treatment Center was found to have a significantly lower recidivism rate than either Western Massachusetts Correctional Alcohol Center or Middlesex County Jail and House of Correction. These results provide evidence of the positive impact of Longwood's correctional alcohol treatment program. This report concludes with recommendations based on the study's findings.

The next section of this report contains brief descriptions of nine research studies that were in progress during 1989. The first study is an impact evaluation of the substance abuse treatment units at MCI-Shirley, North Central Correctional Institution, and Old Colony Correctional Center. The second is an evaluation of the Norfolk Fellowship Program - a program where inmates and volunteers from

the local community gather to discuss a broad range of issues. Third is an evaluation of Massachusetts Correctional Industries which will evaluate the impact of work in prison on discipline and post-release integration. The fourth project is a continuation of the evaluation of the DOC inmate classification system. The final phase of this project will be an impact evaluation of Classification and Program Agreements (CAPA). The fifth project is a series of research briefs concerned with describing sex offenders committed to the DOC. During 1988, the first research brief in this series, "How Many Sex Offenders Are There? And, Where Are They?" was completed. Subsequent reports will provide further descriptions of this population. The sixth project is a description of CORI petitioners, individuals that request to be notified of an offender's temporary, provisional, or final release from custody. This study will consist of statistical information on CORI petitioners and the offenders who are the subjects of these petitions. The seventh project is an exploratory study on the impact of Islamic identification on incarcerated offenders. Eighth is a study on the effectiveness of prison confinement for female offenders. The ninth project presents an assessment on the impacts of furlough participation and pre-release placement on recidivism.

In addition to the annual reports, the Research Division also produces quarterly reports on the status of prison overcrowding, and monthly statistical reports on admissions to and releases from the Department of Correction. Information on participation in selected inmate programs (furloughs, state hospital, education release, and work release) are included in the monthly statistical reports as well.

Copies of the full reports and studies may be obtained by writing to:

**Massachusetts Department of Correction
Research Division -22nd Floor
100 Cambridge Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02202**

ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORTS

A STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION OF
RESIDENTS OF MASSACHUSETTS CORRECTIONAL
INSTITUTIONS ON JANUARY 1, 1989

#342

November 1989

Linda K. Holt

This report presents a statistical description of the 6,757 individuals in the custody of the Massachusetts Department of Correction (DOC) on January 1, 1989. The report contains information on present offense and sentence, personal background characteristics, criminal history, and furlough program participation. The information is presented for the DOC population as a whole and for each facility separately. Changes in the population over the last five years are also given. Some of the highlights of the information presented in this report are:

- The 6,757 inmates in the DOC represent an increase of 8 percent over 1988 and an increase of 51 percent over 1984.
- Between 1984 and 1989, DOC population showed an increase in the proportion of Hispanic offenders, an increase in the proportion of offenders age 30 or over; an increase in the proportion of drug offenders; and a decrease in the proportion of furlough program participants.
- Ten percent were in maximum security facilities, 65 percent in medium security, 5 percent in minimum security, 14 percent in minimum/pre-release security, and 6 percent in pre-release security.
- Fifty percent of the population were incarcerated for an offense against the person, 14 percent for sex offenses, 15 percent for property offenses, 16 percent for drug offenses, and 5 percent for other offenses.
- There were 771 lifers in the DOC, including 335 first-degree lifers and 436 second-degree lifers.
- The median age of the population was 31 years.
- Forty-nine percent were serving their first adult incarceration and 51 percent had a previous incarceration as an adult.

1988 COURT COMMITMENTS TO THE
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

#343

December 1989

Lisa Lorant
Robert Tenaglia

This report is a statistical description of the 2,965 individuals committed by the courts to a term of incarceration in the Massachusetts Department of Correction during the year 1988. The tables in this report contain information on the nature of present offense, personal background characteristics and criminal history of these individuals. Some highlights of the statistics presented in this report are:

- There was a 4 percent increase in the number of commitments during the year, from 2,848 in 1987 to 2,965 in 1988. The 2,965 commitments in 1988 represent the highest level of commitments in DOC history.
- There were 1,364 commitments to Cedar Junction (9 percent higher than 1987), 1,022 commitments to Framingham (14 percent higher than 1987), and 579 commitments to Concord (17 percent lower than 1987).
- Males are committed to Cedar Junction or Concord while females are committed to Framingham. Overall, there was a decrease of less than one percent in male commitments and an increase of 14 percent in female commitments from 1987 to 1988.
- The median minimum sentence for Cedar Junction commitments was five years; the median maximum sentence for Concord commitments was ten years; and the median maximum sentence for Framingham commitments was less than 1 year. Sentence lengths for new court commitments were similar in 1987 and 1988.
- Violent offenses (person and sex) accounted for 52 percent of all male commitments and 11 percent of all female commitments. Non-violent offenses (property, drug and "other") represented 89 percent of all female commitments and 48 percent of all male commitments. From 1987 to 1988 there were increases in commitments for property offenses (up 8 percent), sex offenses (up 7 percent), drug offenses (up 7 percent), and "other" offenses (up 1 percent). There was a decrease in commitments for person offenses (down less than one percent).
- The median age at commitment was 23 years.
- Fifty-six percent of the commitment population were white (including white Hispanics); 63 percent came from the Boston SMSA; most had limited work experience concentrated in the areas of manual labor and services; the median educational level was twelfth grade; and, 36 percent had a self-reported history of drug use.
- Fifty-seven percent were serving their first adult incarceration. The median age at first court appearance was nineteen.

POPULATION MOVEMENTS IN THE
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION,
1988

#338

March 1989

Linda K. Holt

This report summarizes the movement of offenders in the custody of the DOC during 1988. While the focus of the analysis is on calendar year 1988, trends in population movement over the period 1983 to 1988 are also discussed, particularly in relation to population growth during the period.

Some of the highlights of the information presented in this report include:

- There were 17,733 admissions and 17,309 releases of all types to DOC facilities during 1988.
- The continued pattern of admissions surpassing releases led to population growth in the agency.
- In 1988 admissions to the DOC included commitments/from and afters (N=2,975), parole/probation violators (N=1,229), and county transfers (N=590).
- In 1988 releases from the DOC included paroles to street (N=1,863), discharges to street (N=1,297), transfers to county facilities (N=644) and expirations of sentence to street (N=315).

A STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION OF RELEASES FROM
MASSACHUSETTS CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS
DURING 1987

#337

March 1989

Lisa Lorant

This report presents a statistical description of the 3,084 offenders released to the street from a Massachusetts correctional facility during 1987. This report also presents information on trends among releases over the last five years. Highlights from this report include the following:

- The 3,084 releases in 1987 represent an increase of 62 (2 percent) over 1986 releases and an increase of 1108 (56 percent) over 1983 releases.
- The number of males released during 1987 increased by 4 percent from 1986, while the number of females released during 1987 decreased by 2 percent.
- Fifty-six percent of all releases were by parole, 35 percent were by discharge and 9 percent were by expiration of sentence.
- Fifty-one percent were released from maximum or medium security facilities and 49 percent were released from lower security facilities. Many of those released from secure facilities were females serving county sentences or male parole violators.
- The average time served was 52.1 months for individuals serving Cedar Junction sentences, 19.2 months for individuals serving Concord sentences, and 6.1 months for individuals serving Framingham sentences.

STATISTICAL TABLES DESCRIBING THE BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS AND
RECIDIVISM RATES FOR RELEASES FROM MASSACHUSETTS
CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS
DURING 1986

#340

May 1989

Linda K. Holt
Lisa Lorant

and

STATISTICAL TABLES DESCRIBING THE BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS AND
RECIDIVISM RATES FOR RELEASES FROM MASSACHUSETTS
PRE-RELEASE FACILITIES
DURING 1986

#341

May 1989

Linda K. Holt
Lisa Lorant

These two reports present information on recidivism rates of offenders released from Department of Correction facilities during 1986. In addition to providing recidivism rates, the tables in these two reports present statistical descriptions of the releasees. Some highlights from these two reports include the following:

- The recidivism rate in 1986 was 27%. This is the same as the rate for 1985 (27%).
- The number of releases increased from 1,979 in 1985 to 2,767 in 1986, an increase of 40%.
- The recidivism rate varied by security level of the institution from which the offender was released: 51% for maximum, 32% for medium, 37% for minimum, 13% for minimum/pre-release, 17% for state pre-release and 23% for contract pre-release.
- From 1985 to 1986 the recidivism rate for releases from maximum or medium security institutions increased from 32% to 34%, and the recidivism rate for releases from lower security facilities stayed the same (20%).
- The recidivism rate for males was 28%, an increase from the 1985 figure of 26%, and the rate for females was 22% a decrease from last year's figure of 30%.
- Among males, the recidivism rate was 30% for those serving a Walpole sentence (compared to 27% for 1985), 33% for those serving a Concord sentence (compared to 27% for 1985), and 9% for those committed to other jurisdictions (e.g., county).
- Recidivists were returned for a variety of reasons: 16% for technical parole violations, 60% for a parole violation involving a new arrest, and 24% for re-incarceration on a new offense.

- Offenders released by parole had a higher recidivism rate (33%) than those who were discharged (15%).
- For males, those committed for property offenses had the highest recidivism rate (40%); for females, those committed for sex offenses had the highest recidivism rate (60%).
- The recidivism rate for those released with no prior adult incarcerations was lower (20%) than for those with a history of one (30%) or more than one (34%) prior adult incarcerations.
- The recidivism rate for offenders with no furloughs prior to release was 31% and the recidivism rate for individuals with one or more furloughs prior to release was 16%.

1988 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT OF THE FURLOUGH PROGRAM

#345

December 1989

Lisa Lorant
Robert Tenaglia

The Furlough Program was first implemented by the Massachusetts Department of Correction on November 6, 1972. Since the inception of the program until December 31, 1988, a total of 124,351 furloughs have been granted to 10,910 individuals. There have been 652 escapes since the inception of the program, yielding an overall success rate of 99.5 percent of all furloughs and an escape rate of 0.5 percent per furlough.

- During 1988, a total of 3,218 furloughs were granted to 646 individuals. This is a decrease of 45 percent from the 5,859 furloughs granted during 1987; and a decrease of 44 percent from the 1,161 individuals furloughed during 1987.
- The median number of furloughs per furloughed offender for 1988 was two. This is lower than the 1987 median of three furloughs per furloughed offender.
- During 1988, 61 percent of all furloughs were from pre-release facilities; 19 percent were from mixed minimum/pre-release facilities; 13 percent were from minimum security facilities; and 7 percent were from maximum or medium security institutions.
- Of the furloughs taken, 90 percent were unescorted furloughs and 10 percent were escorted or emergency furloughs.
- The median number of hours of leave per furlough during 1988 was 19 hours. This number is the same as 1987.
- 1988 had 99.9 percent successful returns of all furloughs taken.
- There were 2 escapes from furlough during 1988, resulting in an escape rate per furlough of 0.1 percent.
- Over the past 14 years, the number of individuals released from the Department of Correction who have participated in the furlough program has steadily declined. 1988 preliminary data show that 16 percent of the males, and 3 percent of the females released had one or more furloughs.

EVALUATIVE AND DESCRIPTIVE STUDIES

**TESTING THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF A POINT-BASED CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM:**

**A COMPARISON OF
DOC INITIAL CLASSIFICATIONS
WITH THE NIC MODEL SYSTEMS APPROACH**

#336

March 1989

**Michael W. Forcier, Ph.D.
Michael White, M.A.**

This report presents the results of a comparative validation analysis of initial classification decisions reached by the Massachusetts DOC Classification System with those of the National Institute of Correction's Model Systems Approach. The purpose of this analysis was to examine what security level distributions would be reached at initial classification if the DOC were to use the NIC objective, point-based model of classification.

The initial classification decisions on 180 inmates classified at MCI-Concord and MCI-Cedar Junction were compared to the decisions reached with the NIC model after these 180 cases were "reclassified" using NIC criteria. It was found that 49% of the sample was overclassified, 43% was same-level classified, and 8% was underclassified according to NIC criteria. Moreover, 97% of the sample was classified to medium or maximum custody in the DOC system, while the NIC system assigned 60% of the sample to medium or close custody. Conversely, only 3% were assigned to minimum security using DOC criteria compared to 40% using the NIC model.

It is concluded that the DOC classification system results in overclassification of nearly half of all offenders. In particular, first- and second-degree murderers, drug, sex, and property offenders are overclassified. Overclassification is primarily attributable to the time guidelines established in the Standard Movement Chronology. The effect of overclassification is a misuse of maximum and medium security bed space. While the feasibility of immediately assigning lifers to minimum security settings is questionable, at least some of the bed space shortage in medium security could be alleviated by the immediate assignment of drug offenders, and selected sex and property offenders to minimum security.

In response to these conclusions, four recommendations are offered. First, the DOC should place a decreased emphasis on sentence length as a classification factor. Second, the Standard Movement Chronology should be revised or abandoned. Third, the existing classification system should be supplemented by a point-based model of classification. Fourth, a full-scale validation study testing the NIC model on the Massachusetts state prison population should be conducted.

EVALUATION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE
PROGRAMMING AT MIC-CEDAR JUNCTION, VOLUME 2:

IMPACT EVALUATION OF
THE PROGRAM UNIT FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSERS

#339

August 1989

Ann Marie Rocheleau, M.A.
Michael W. Forcier, Ph.D.

A growing recognition of the linkage between substance abuse and criminality, coupled with sharp increases in the proportion of persons incarcerated for drug offenses, has led to the implementation of an increasing number of prison-based substance abuse treatment programs. This report presents results from an impact evaluation of the Program Unit for Substance Abusers, a treatment unit operated at MCI-Cedar Junction at Walpole, the state's maximum security facility.

The purpose of the study was to assess the long-term abstinence of Program Unit completers as compared to three other groups of inmates: Walpole inmates known to be substance abusers who had never participated in the Program Unit ("control group"); Program Unit non-completers; and, inmates who applied to but were not accepted into the Program Unit. The three variables used to measure the incidence of substance abuse one year prior to participation/application in the Unit and one year following release/termination from the Unit were; disciplinary reports related to substance abuse; positive results of urinalysis; and transfers/reclassifications for known drug abuse.

Results indicated that Program Unit completers had both less serious pre-incarceration and institutional substance abuse histories, and disciplinary histories than either the control, applicant, or non-completer groups. Moreover, when all indicators of a substance abuse problem were combined, more inmates in the control group had substance abuse problems followed by the applicants, non-completers, and completers.

Pre-and post-treatment measures of institutional substance abuse indicated slight improvements in the completer group but similar improvements in the applicant and control groups raising the question of whether or not improvement was due to treatment participation. Thus, although 31% of the program completers experienced less indicators of substance abuse after treatment, so did 40% of the applicant and 37% of the control groups. Almost two-thirds of program completers and non-completers experienced no change in their amount of substance abuse while 8% of program completers evidenced more substance abuse compared to 20% of the non-completers, 16% of the applicants, and 23% of the control group. In sum, participation in the Substance Abuse unit did not appear to ensure less substance abuse activity nor clear improvements in institutional behavior as indicated by disciplinary reports.

While the impact results call into question the effectiveness of treatment and screening criteria in the Program Unit, interviews with staff and program participants indicated some positive effects. Issues concerning screening and classification, program requirements and incentives, the treatment and education groups, reasons for non-completion, participants' perceptions, and unanticipated effects and findings are discussed.

The final section of the report summarizes major findings and presents recommendations concerning the assessment of treatment impacts, the Unit screening process, use of bed space, and program incentives and requirements.

CORRECTIONAL ALCOHOL TREATMENT CENTERS: AN IMPACT EVALUATION

#344

December 1989

Julie M. Nardone, M.A.
Michael W. Forcier, Ph.D.

In the wake of increased commitments to county houses-of-correction for drunk driving in recent years, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts established three correctional alcohol treatment centers which are designed to detain and provide alcoholism education and treatment to multiple drunken driving offenders. These alternatives to houses-of-correction were viewed as the best way of dealing with the repeat OUI offender in that a merger of incarceration and alcohol treatment would make it more likely that OUI offenders would be sentenced and treated for their drinking problems than would be the case with incarceration only.

This report presents results from an impact evaluation of two of those correctional alcohol treatment facilities: the Longwood Treatment Center in Boston and the Western Massachusetts Correctional Alcohol Center (WMCAC) in Springfield. The purpose of this study was to assess the impact of correctional alcohol treatment on the recidivism (reincarceration) and rearrest rates of multiple OUI offenders released from these facilities. The Middlesex County Jail and House of Correction in Billerica was selected as a comparison (non-treatment) site for purposes of measuring impacts at the two correctional alcohol treatment centers. Three post-release follow-up periods were employed in the study: twelve, eighteen and twenty-four months.

The major finding which emerges from this study is that the Longwood Treatment Center has a statistically significant lower recidivism rate at each post-release follow-up period than either the Western Massachusetts Correctional Alcohol Center or the Middlesex County Jail and House of Correction. For example, at the 12 month follow-up, the Longwood recidivism rate was 6.6% compared to a rate of 15.6% at the Western Massachusetts Correctional Alcohol Center and 15.9% at the the Middlesex County Jail and House of Correction. Similarly, Longwood had the lowest rearrest rate at each follow-up period although the differences between Longwood and the two other facilities were not always statistically significant. The differences between the 12 and 18 month recidivism and rearrest rates at WMCAC and Billerica were not statistically significant. A new OUI offense was the offense which most frequently accounted for recidivism and rearrest across all facilities and all follow-up periods.

These results provide evidence of the positive impact of Longwood's correctional alcohol treatment as documented by lower rates of recidivism and rearrest among Longwood releasees. By contrast, the research was not able to document a treatment effect at the Western Massachusetts Correctional Alcohol Center as its recidivism and rearrest rates were not significantly different than those documented for Billerica releasees.

On the basis of these findings, the following recommendations are offered: 1) further research on WMCAC and Longwood; 2) re-consideration of the target population at WMCAC; and, 3) continued emphasis on the aftercare component at Longwood and WMCAC.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

EVALUATION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT UNITS

Michael W. Forcier, Ph.D.

Incarcerated offenders have been found to have histories and rates of alcohol and drug abuse substantially greater than the general population. The relationship between substance abuse and criminality has received increased attention as research has revealed that one third to one half of incarcerated offenders reported that they were under the influence of an illegal drug or had been very drunk before they committed the crime for which they were incarcerated.

In recognition of the link between substance abuse and crime, the Department of Correction has established substance abuse treatment units at a number of facilities. The Research Division will undertake an evaluation of three of these units which are based on a therapeutic community model for housing and treating inmates with substance abuse problems. The programs are at: MCI-Shirley; North Central Correctional Institution; and, Old Colony Correctional Center.

The objective of this evaluation will be to examine the impact of treatment on program participants by comparing the post-program institutional adjustment and post-release recidivism of program completers to non-participants with substance abuse histories.

The study will begin in March 1990.

THIRTY YEARS LATER: AN EVALUATION OF THE NORFOLK FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Julie M. Nardone

September 1987 marked the 30th anniversary of the Norfolk Fellowship program. The Norfolk Fellowship, a non-sectarian community-based volunteer program, was established in 1957 by the Chaplain at MCI-Norfolk, Reverend Robert F. Dutton. Over the years, the Fellowship program has spread to five other correctional facilities: MCI-Cedar Junction, MCI-Lancaster, the Medfield prison Project, the Northeastern Correctional Center, and the Bay State Correctional Center.

Past evaluations of the Fellowship Program have been largely quantitative in nature, relying solely on recidivism rates as a measure of treatment success. The present study will utilize both quantitative and qualitative research techniques. Quantitative techniques will be used in order to compare the recidivism behavior of Fellowship participants with the recidivism behavior of the overall population of inmates released from the DOC. The data for this aspect of the study will be obtained from DOC record files and probation checks on Fellowship participants released between December 1983 and December 1986.

Qualitative research methods will be used in order to identify purposes served by the Fellowship program besides those which would impact on recidivism rates of participants. Through the use of qualitative methods the researcher will be able to examine the process of the Fellowship program.

The qualitative data will be obtained from several sources, including interviews with 20 former Fellowship participants and 5 former Fellowship volunteers, observations of Fellowship meetings at MCI-Cedar Junction, MCI-Norfolk, and Northeastern Correctional Center, and observations from the annual Fellowship conference.

WORK IN PRISON AND ITS EFFECTS ON INMATES' MORALE AND POST-RELEASE INTEGRATION

Darek Niklas, Ph.D.

Presently about 8% of inmates in Massachusetts Department of Correction custody participate in prison industries. This research will evaluate the impact of work in prison on discipline and post-release integration. Moreover, it will add a descriptive analysis of work environments and show the contribution of different work settings and programs to the predictions of recidivism and disciplinary problems. Two processes in the system of prison industries are specifically amenable to control by the authorities-organization of the work process; and - selection of inmates for work programs. Inquiry into both is incorporated in this research.

Under the pressure of different policy factors, most eminently overcrowding and the general trend towards privatization, prison industries may become exposed to pressures towards change. This research project will result in establishing an information system which will allow policy oriented current monitoring of the developments in prison industries.

EVALUATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM: PHASE 3

Michael W. Forcier, Ph.D.

Since 1972, the Massachusetts Department of Correction has experimented with different inmate classification systems. Most recently, the DOC implemented a new system built around a concept called "Classification and Program Agreements" or CAPA. The CAPA is a voluntary program agreement offered to some inmates during a classification hearing when the DOC and inmate agree to a scheduled reduction in security levels according to a "standard movement chronology" contingent upon positive institutional adjustment and program participation for the duration of the agreement.

The primary objective of the present study is to evaluate the overall classification system and CAPA specifically. This study is the final phase of a three phase project. Phase 1, completed in 1988, is a Survey of DOC Staff Perceptions of the Inmate Classification System. Phase 2, completed in 1989, compares the DOC classification system to the National Institute of Correction's Model Systems Approach to classification. Phase 3 will examine the impacts of CAPA by comparing the institutional adjustment and program participation of inmates who have a CAPA with those who are not eligible/suitable for a CAPA and those who choose not to participate in CAPA.

The study is scheduled for completion in December 1990.

**SEX OFFENDERS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION:
DESCRIPTION OF THE POPULATION AND IMPLICATIONS
FOR TREATMENT**

**Linda K. Holt
Lisa Lorant
Paraskev Goltso**

During 1989, the Research Division continued progress on a six part series of research briefs devoted toward describing the Department of Correction's sex offender population. Highlights from the first research brief in this series, "How Many Sex Offenders Are There? And, Where Are They?" include the following:

- On January 1, 1988, the DOC had a population of 1012 sex offenders, representing 16.2% of the total population.
- 42.4% of the sex offenders in DOC custody are incarcerated as a result of at least one offense involving a minor.
- The number of sex offenders has tripled over the last ten years, and the proportion of sex offenders has increased from 12.5% of the DOC population in 1978 to 16.2% of the DOC population in 1988.
- The proportion of sex offenders whose victims were minors has increased from 26.4% in 1978 to 42.4% in 1988.

The topics of the five forthcoming research briefs in this series are

Historical and Legal Perspectives on the Sex Offender Population

Sentencing Patterns Among Sex Offenders

Comparative Analysis of Rapists, Child Molesters, Other Violent Offenders, and Non-Violent Offenders

Descriptive Analysis of Sex Offenders: The Offense and The Offenders

Recidivism Rates of the Sex Offender Population

This series will be completed during 1990.

A DEMOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION OF CORI PETITIONERS OF DOC INMATES

Michael White

Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 258B, Section 3 provides that crime victims, family members of homicide victims, and witnesses may request to be notified when the offender receives a temporary, provisional or final release from custody, or when the offender escapes from custody. Passage of this provision from the Victim Bill of Rights of 1984 led to a dramatic increase in the number of petitions for Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) filed with the Criminal History Systems Board (CHSB). Specifically, the number of new CORI petitions has grown from 78 in 1984 to 1,190 in 1988. This rapid growth in the number of CORI petitions demonstrates the need for the Department to take a closer look at CORI notifications. This study will present a statistical profile of a sample of CORI petitioners of DOC inmates and of the offenders who are the subjects of these CORI petitions.

The petitioner characteristics to be considered include sex, age, residential location, and relationship to victim. Information on offender sex, age, offense, and sentence, will be included in the profile as well.

This report is scheduled to be released in April 1990.

STUDY OF ISLAM AND MUSLIMS IN MASSACHUSETTS PRISONS

Daniel P. LeClair, Ph.D.

The effects of Islamic identification on ex-offenders once they are released from the confines of the correctional system are important. However, there is a need to first learn more about what the impact of Islam is on incarcerated, mainly underclass, black men in the prison system before looking at their lives on release. The proposed study, therefore, focuses on inmates in four to six prisons of two different state prison systems, Massachusetts and New York.

This study will obtain valuable in-depth data in this focus on two prison systems. Later studies building on the results of this one would do well, however, to extend the research to the lives of inmates in the years immediately following their release and to correctional systems in other parts of the country.

**STUDY ON EFFECTIVENESS OF PRISON PROGRAMMING FOR
INCARCERATED FEMALE OFFENDERS AT
MCI-FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

Daniel P. LeClair, Ph.D.

This paper will present the argument that the use of prison confinement for female offenders is unsupported by the inmates' offense types and criminal histories. The practice of incarcerating females is also unsupported by contemporary social, cultural, political and economic standards. Data from the Massachusetts correctional system will be presented in support of the theoretical position taken by the author which is also based on current explanations of female criminality and offense category patterns that will be reviewed in this paper. The paper will conclude with a statement of the major benefits of a policy of non-confinement for females and discussion of possible alternatives to incarceration.

DOES INCAPACITATION GUARANTEE PUBLIC SAFETY? LESSONS FROM MASSACHUSETTS'S FURLOUGH AND PRE-RELEASE PROGRAMS

**Daniel P. LeClair, Ph.D.
Susan Guarino-Ghezzi, Ph.D.**

Individualized offender risk models do not account for expected reductions in risk that are caused by programmatic interventions, in part because of a presumption of program ineffectiveness. Two relatively unevaluated types of correctional programs -- community-based prison pre-release programs and prison furloughs -- will be examined for adult males in the Massachusetts Department of Correction to determine if an identifiable intervention effect on recidivism rates exists. The entire cohorts of released male inmates in 1973 and 1974 will be studied using base expectancy methodology to control for inmates' background characteristics. Longitudinal trends in recidivism comparing program participants to non-participants also will be examined. Furlough participation, alone and followed by pre-release, appears to have a pronounced and consistent positive impact on recidivism for up to five years. Implications for reintegration theory, risk assessment policy, and research will be discussed.

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